THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. POPE.

No. 740.

THE PENSION-ANNUITY SCHEME.

Of all the recent schemes, adopted or abandoned, of our scheming Ministers, the Pension Annuity scheme is the most weak and ridiculous. Here we have on one hand an annually decreasing sum of *five* millions to disburse for half-pay and pensions; on the other, as Mr. VANSITTART calculates, an annual surplus of *five* millions, called Sinking Fund, placed out at interest. The Ministers are driven by the alarming cry of distress, to remit two millions of taxes. As they will not reduce the Expenditure—the only genuine mode of relieving the country—one would think that out of the surplus revenue (the Sinking Fund) these two millions would of course be taken. But no: that is too simple a process for our financial jugglers, who must have something to mystify the Country Gentlemen, something to make them believe that the said two millions are *created* by a scheme! They are therefore getting an Act passed, by which *three* millions only instead of *five* are in future to be taken out of the revenue for the payment of the pensions and half-pay, and the *two* other millions remitted in taxes. The half-pay and pensions, however, require *five* millions, and the deficiency is to be made up by appointing Commissioners to *borrow* it every year till the pensions, &c. are decreased to less than the *three* millions, when they are to repay with the overplus the money they have previously borrowed. So that the whole scheme is simply an annual loan to keep up a pretended annual surplus of Revenue! Was ever such a farce played off before a suffering people? But its mere absurdity is not the worst part of it; the nation actually *loses* by the juggle. To have two millions out at interest, by borrowing two millions at interest so to lay out, leaves the borrower poorer by the transaction, inasmuch as he has to pay the agents, and to give a bonus to the lenders. "We understand," says the *Chronicle*, "that the Managers of the Stock Exchange, always anxious to promote the views of Government, have determined to erect a desk or pulpit, for the *sale* of the new Long Annuities, immediately opposite to that in which the broker to the Commissioners for the Redemption of the National Debt now *buys* such Stock, and that a clause is to be introduced into the new Act to allow the respective brokers of the two Commissions to deal with each other, as the one will always be a *buyer* and the other always a *seller*; this will greatly simplify this *simple* transaction, and there will be no new expense to the public, excepting for the management of the machinery."—If this paragraph be serious (and the more serious the more comic, as an Irishman would say) the Ministers, set on perhaps by some mischievous wag, would really seem to be practically ridiculing their own scheme, by shewing the nation how prodigiously it must *make money*, by hiring a man to borrow on one side, and another to pay off on the other. We fancy the two brokers winking at each other during the *lucrative* operation; however, they may console their consciences on taking their salaries, that this is not the first time that pulpits have been used to cajole the people!

THE BANKING SYSTEM.

THERE is scarcely a man in the country who is not more or less interested in the Banking System, particularly as it refers to the provincial banks. We all know the fatal consequences that usually ensue on the failure of one of these concerns,—the dismay and wide ruin it too often spreads through a circle neither narrow nor unimportant. Any plan, therefore, that would make such misfortunes of very rare occurrence, would alone be a public benefit; and if, at the same time that it afforded a greater security for the property of individuals, it likewise gave them other advantages, one should suppose that such a plan only required to be better known, to be generally adopted, at a period when the people are less able than ever to bear up against pecuniary loss, or to omit any honorable means of increasing their incomes.

On this subject, a pamphlet has recently appeared, written with much force and clearness by Mr. Joplin, who explains the system pursued in Scotland, and strenuously recommends its adoption in this country. The public Banks in that part of the island are mostly Joint Stock Companies; and hence, he says, their uniform success, and the unbounded confidence they enjoy. "Any person opening an account with them receives four per cent. upon the balance in their hands. He may pay money to the credit of his account when he chooses, and he receives interest for it from the day it is deposited. He may draw his money out of the Bank when and in such sums as he thinks proper, and only loses interest upon the sum drawn from the day of receiving it.—Any person, giving proper securities, may open an account with them, and draw to the extent of the security given, for which they will charge him five per cent. upon the fluctuating balance he owes. Consequently, a person who has money to lend is saved all the trouble, not unattended with risk, of mortgages, and may have his money, or any part of it, at any time, should a desirable purchase fall in his way; whereas with a mortgage he cannot draw his money when he wants it—must take it altogether when he does draw it—or, if the borrower chooses, must take it whether he wants it or not."

The reason why so many of our banks fail—(230 commissions of bankruptcy have been issued against bankers in England in 20 years)—while those in Scotland not only stand firm, but allow their customers so many advantages, *is*, that the former are private concerns, usually in the hands of two or three individuals,* while the latter are joint stock companies, composed of a great number of proprietors, and governed, as the Bank of England is governed, not by a partial or incapable individual or two, but by a Committee of Directors, chosen by the proprietors at large, for their known integrity and capacity. From the late proceedings in Parliament,

* By a return made to the House of Commons, it appears, that in Essex there are 10 banks, the firms consisting of 31 names; in Cambridgeshire, 7 banks, 22 names; Hertfordshire, 14 banks, 31 names; Kent, 31 banks, 78 names; Norfolk, 16 banks, 57 names; Suffolk, 17 banks, 73 names; Yorkshire, 50 banks, 196 names.

it appears that Ministers are not indisposed to relax in the absurd law which prevents more than six persons from entering into a banking concern. For our own parts, we are decided opponents of all monopolies; and Mr. Grenfell, and others, have abundantly proved that the monopoly of the Bank of England is continued to the great loss of the people of England, however it may answer the present purposes of Ministers. Mr. Joplin, however, is content to leave the Bank in the possession of its chief monopoly; but urges, that it should "be secured to it in a more simple and direct manner. That in lieu of the clause enacting that not more than six partners shall enter into other banking concerns, it be enacted that no banks shall issue notes within the boundaries of the present monopoly."—Doubtless, if we cannot obtain all that we have a right to, and which would be useful to obtain, it is well to get what portion of it we can: and it is on this principle that we are always ready to support any measure of reform, short of one of mere pretence and delusion; for the obtaining part of a right does not at all incapacitate us from struggling for the remainder.

The Country bankers will very likely exert themselves to prevent any alteration in the present system; but if more powerful interests do not interfere, such is the manifest advantage of the proposed alteration, that Ministers will hardly give way to *their* interested desires. Government is indeed pledged to a change; and it is to be hoped it will be honestly made, and that while the law is relaxed respecting the number of partners to be allowed in each banking concern, it will not be encumbered with provisions that may go to defeat the desired and apparent object.

LETTERS
TO THE READERS OF THE EXAMINER.

No. 4.—Prometheus Unbound.

The article in the *Quarterly* alluded to in my last letter, is a pretended review of Mr. Shelley's poem, entitled *Prometheus Unbound*. It does not enter into any discussion of the doctrines contained in that poem. It does not pretend to refute them. It knows very well that it does not dare to enter into the merit of Mr. Shelley's propositions, and answer them as it would answer a treatise by a theological sectarian. And the reason is obvious. I do not mean to say that all those propositions are unanswerable; but I say the Quarterly Reviewers, by the very nature of their office, as civil and religious State-hirelings, are not the men to answer them fairly; and accordingly their criticism has all the malice of conscious inability to reply, and eagerness to put down. I am very sincere when I say that I have no knowledge of the writer of the article in question; but if I were asked to guess who it was, I should say it was neither Mr. Gifford with all his bitter common-place, nor Mr. Croker with all his pettifogging, nor Mr. Southey with all his cant; but some assistant clergyman, who is accustomed to beg the question in the pulpit, and who thinks that his undertoned breath of malignity will be mistaken for Christian decorum. What renders this the more probable (though, to be sure, the ordinary readers of the *Quarterly Review* are as much prepared to take things on trust as if they were sitting in pews) is, that the critic thinks it sufficient to quote a passage against priests, in order to have proved its erroneousness. The amount of his reasoning is this:—Here is a rascal! He wishes there were no such things as priests! Upon which all the priests and pluralists shake their well-fed cheeks in a shudder of reprobation, and the poet is confuted. Observe too a little genuine *Quarterly* touch lurking by the way. The Reviewer is collecting passages to prove his author's enmity to the Christian faith—an enmity, by the bye, which Mr. Shelley always takes care to confine to the violent consequences of faith as contrasted with practice, there being in the latter sense no truer Christian than himself. The poet exclaims—

> O, that the free would stamp the impious name
> Of **** into the dust! or write it there,
> So that this blot upon the page of fame
> Were as a serpent's path, which the light air
> Erases, and the flat sands close behind!

These *four* stars, which in fact imply a civil title, and not a religious word, as the allusion to "the page of fame" might evince, are silently turned by the Reviewer into *six* stars, as if implying the name of Christ:—

> O, that the free would stamp the impious name
> Of ****** into the dust.

I fancy some inexperienced reader doubting whether it be possible even for a Quarterly Reviewer to be guilty of such a meanness, and suggesting that he might have written the stars at random. Alas, my old friends, he does not know the nature of these people as you and I do! Doubtless, when the Reviewer wrote his six stars, he was aware that decent persons, unacquainted with the merits of him and his subject, would make the same good-natured suggestion, had they chanced to observe the difference between the original and the quotation. But when we know the misrepresentations which these Reviewers are in the habit of making, when we know how often their mean arts have been exercised and exposed, when we know that they have *put marks of quotation to sentences which are not to be found in the authors they criticise*, have left out parts of a context *to render the remainder absurd*, and have *altered words into words of their own* for the same purpose, nobody will doubt that the writer of the article in question wilfully put down his six stars instead of four, and deserves (like some others who wear as many) to have "the mean heart bared" that "lurks" beneath them. Take another description of similar pettiness. The Reviewer, speaking of one of the most striking passages of the poem, says, "After a revolting description of the death of our Saviour, introduced *merely* for the sake of intimating that *the religion he preached is the great source of human misery and vice*, Mr. Shelley adds,

> —— 'Thy name I will not speak,
> It hath become a curse.'

Will Mr. Shelley," continues the indignant moralist, "to excuse this blasphemy against the name *in which all the nations of the earth shall be made blessed*, pretend that these are the words of *Prometheus*, not of the poet?"—No; Mr. Shelley will pretend nothing. He leaves it to the Quarterly Reviewers to pretend, and cant, and commit "pious frauds," in order to make out their case, and act in an unchristian manner in order to prove their Christianity. It is the critic who pretends in this case. He pretends that Mr. Shelley has "added" nothing further; that he has not explained *how* the name in question has become a curse;—and that he has not "intimated," that the religion he preached has been turned against its very essence by those who pretend to preach it in modern times. Who would suppose, from the Reviewer's quotation, that Mr. Shelley, in this very passage, is instancing Christ as a specimen of the fate of benevolent reformers? Yet nothing is more true. Who would suppose, that in this very passage, which they pretend to have quoted entirely, Mr. Shelley puts the consequences which they make him deduce as the only result of the Christian religion, into the mouth of one of the Furies,—not indeed as untrue to a certain extent, but as the only lasting result which she can perceive, and delights to perceive: for in any other sense the whole tenor of Mr. Shelley's poem and speculation is quite the reverse of any such deduction, with reference to what must always *continue* to be. All that he meant in short is this,—that as Christ's benevolence subjected him to the torments he endured, so the uncharitable dogmas produced by those who make a *sine quâ non* of the Christian *faith*, have hitherto done more harm than good to mankind; and all the rest of his poem may be said to be occupied in shewing, that it is benevolence, as opposed to faith, which will survive these horrible consequences of its associate, and make more than amends for them. I will quote the whole of the passage in question, that the reader may see what the Reviewer, cunning in his "sins of omission," chose to leave out. Besides, it is very grand and full of matter,

Prometheus,—(who is a personification of the Benevolent Principle, subjected for a time to the Phantasm Jupiter, or in other words to that False Idea of the great and beneficent First Cause, which men create out of their own follies and tyrannies)—is lying under the infliction of his torments, patient and inflexible, when two of the Ocean Nymphs, who have come to comfort him, hear a terrible groan, and look out to see what has caused it.

Ione. Hark, sister! what a low yet dreadful groan,
Quite unsuppressed, is tearing up the heart
Of the good Titan, as storms tear the deep,
And beasts hear the sea moan in inland caves.
Darest thou observe how the fiends torture him?
Panthea. Alas! I looked forth twice, but will no more.
Ione. What didst thou see?
Pan. A woful sight: a youth
With patient looks nailed to a crucifix.
Ione. What next?
Pan. The heaven around, the earth below
Was peopled with thick shapes of human death,
All horrible, and wrought by human hands,
And some appeared the work of human hearts,
For men were slowly killed by frowns and smiles.
And other sights too foul to speak and live
Were wandering by. Let us not tempt worse fear
By looking forth: those groans are grief enough.
Fury. Behold an emblem: those who do endure
Deep wrongs for man, and scorn, and chains, but heap
Thousandfold torment on themselves and him.
Prometheus. Remit the anguish of that lighted stare;
Close those wan lips; let that thorn-wounded brow
Stream not with blood; it mingles with thy tears!
Fix, fix those tortured orbs in peace and death,
So thy thick throes shake not that crucifix,
So thy pale fingers play not with the gore.
O horrible! *Thy name I will not speak,*
It hath become a curse. I see, I see
The wise, the mild, the lofty, and the just,
WHOM THY SLAVES HATE FOR BEING LIKE TO THEE,
Some hunted by foul lies from their heart's home,
An early-chosen, late-lamented home;
As horded ounces cling to the driven hind;
Some linked to corpses in unwholesome cells:
Some—Hear I not the multitude laugh loud?—
Impaled in lingering fire: and mighty realms
Float by my feet, like sea-uprooted isles,
Whose sons are kneaded down in common blood
By the red light of their own burning homes.
Fury. Blood thou canst see, and fire; and canst hear groans;
Worse things, unheard, unseen, remain behind.
Prometheus. Worse?
Fury. In each human heart terror survives
The ruin it has gorged: the loftiest fear
All that they would disdain to think were true:
Hypocrisy and custom make their minds
The fanes of many a worship now outworn.
They dare not devise good for man's estate,
And yet they know not that they do not dare.
The good want power, but to weep barren tears.
The powerful goodness want; worse need for them.
The wise want love; and those who love want wisdom;
And all best things are thus confused to ill.
Many are strong and rich, and would be just,
But live among their suffering fellow-men,
As if none felt; they know not what they do.
Prom. Thy words are like a cloud of winged snakes;
And yet I pity those they torture not.
Fury. Thou pitiest them? I speak no more.

This is is a terrible picture, and doubtless exaggerated, if the latter part is to be taken as a picture of all the good as well as ill which the world contains; but the painter uses his sombre colours to cast a corresponding gravity of reflection on people's minds. I will concede to anybody who requires it, that Mr. Shelley, from the excess of his wishes on this point, is too apt to draw descriptions of the state of mankind without sufficient light on his canvas; but in the lesser extent to which they do apply—(and Heaven knows it is wide enough)—let the reader judge for himself how applicable they are. I will also concede to the Quarterly Reviewer, that Mr. Shelley's poetry is often of too abstract and metaphysical a cast; that it is apt to be too wilful and capricious in its metaphysics and polemics in verse, but kept his poetry for more fitting subjects. But let the reader judge, by this passage out of one of his poems least calculated to be popular, whether "all" his poetry is the nonsense the Reviewer pretends it to be. The Reviewer says that the above picture of the death of Christ is "revolting." The power of exciting pity and terror may perhaps be revolting to the mind of one who cannot "go and do so likewise;" but I will tell him what is a great deal more revolting to the minds of mankind in general, however priest-ridden or pension-ridden,—the feelings that induced the Reviewer to omit the passage which I have marked.

So much for the charges of nonsense and want of decency. In my next, I shall have something edifying to shew you in answer to the charge of nonsense and obscurity, and more assumptions of honesty and candour on the part of the Quarterly critics. Adieu.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS—REFORM.

A Meeting of the Freeholders of Kent was on Tuesday holden at Maidstone, "to consider of a Petition to Parliament on the Distressed State of the Country, and the Defective Representation of the People."—The Requisition was signed by upwards of 450 Landed Proprietors, amongst whom were Earls Thanet, Cowper, Darnley, and Jersey, Lords Sondes, Folkestone, Clifton, &c. After the High Sheriff (J. P. Powell, Esq.) had opened the business of the day,—

Mr. FOOTE addressed the Meeting upon the grievances and distresses of the country, particularly of the farmers, for whom no relief had yet been offered. He was of opinion that effectual relief would never be obtained without a Reform; and he concluded by reading an excellent Petition to Parliament, in which the sufferings of the nation, the corruptions of the Government, the violations of the Constitution, &c. were all forcibly touched upon. It ended by calling upon the Hon. House to retrench and Reform in Spirit and in Truth, which would alone save the country from convulsion, give stability to the throne, and perpetuate the constitution.

Mr RIDER seconded the petition in a very forcible speech, in which he traced the causes of our calamities to an imprudent alteration in the currency, overwhelming pressure of taxation, and a total disregard to the prayers of the people. There was, he said, a body in the House, drilled and commanded by a Treasury Secretary, who voted as they were ordered by the Minister; and this state of things, called "influence of the Crown," was openly defended by the Marquis of Londonderry. This accounted for the extravagant manner in which the money of the people was expended. It was of little use, therefore, to send independent Members to Parliament, such as Mr. Honeywood, where the Minister could overwhelm them by majorities made up by men who were bought and sold by places and pensions either for themselves or their relatives. *(Great applause.)* Mr. Rider concluded by calling on the people to persevere without flinching, and then they would be successful.

The Earl of DARNLEY was of opinion that Parliament could only afford relief by a diminution of taxation. Their distresses, he said, arose not so much out of the defects of the present as of the former Parliaments, who did not exercise a sufficient controul over the expenditure of Ministers. The farmer was pressed down by both direct and indirect taxation, which met him at every turn. As long as they were able, he was decidedly in favour of paying the public creditor; and the only way to avoid the desperate alternative of paying him so much in the pound, was by a diminution of taxation, and lowering our establishments, civil and military.

Sir E. KNATCHBULL said he had always given his utmost attention and support to every measure calculated to relieve the agricultural distresses, but he did not approve of Parliamentary Reform. He denied the existence of such corrupt influence in Parliament as had been stated; or if it did exist, he pledged himself that he was ignorant of it. Adverting to what had been said of the pressure of taxation, he stated that 4,000,000*l.* of taxes had been recently taken off—a pretty strong proof that the calumniated House of Commons was not so bad as it had been described. *(Applause.)*

Messrs. LARKIN, HODGES, and HONEYWOOD, all spoke strenuously in favour of Reform. After which, Mr. COBBETT stood forward to address the Meeting, when he was assailed by cries of "off, off!" "he is no freeholder"—mixed with those of "hear every man,"—"it is unfair,"—"he is a freeholder," &c. The Under-Sheriff having put the question, Mr. Cobbett replied, that

suffered to proceed with his speech. He reminded those who now talked of the respectability of the advocates for Reform, that it was the Radicals—the men who had been sent to prison for advocating that doctrine,—who had originally petitioned Parliament on that subject. The persecuted people then only prayed for that which was now called for by the Gentry and Nobles of Kent,—the reduction of salaries, the abolition of sinecure places and pensions, and a Reform in the House of Commons. For this same prayer it was that they were persecuted and imprisoned. Until the national debt was reduced, there could be no efficient relief. He was anxious to support the petition, and he should move a rider to it, with a view to prevent all the useful classes of Society from being robbed by a set of Jobbers, who had always in their mouths the cry of national faith and national honour, while they were anxious only to promote their selfish and ungenerous views. He concluded by proposing the following Rider:—"And your Petitioners beg leave likewise most humbly to pray, that your Honourable House will cause a just reduction of the interest of the National Debt, as soon as you have completed a Reform of your Honourable House."

The Earl of DARNLEY said, that he had never before had the pleasure of seeing the gentleman who had last spoken—a gentleman who was known to every body by his writings, and for whose powers of mind he in common with the rest of the world felt great respect. In answer to what that gentleman observed, he felt it necessary to state, that it would be unfair in those persons who had supported the extravagant projects of Ministers, to turn round and say "now we are in distress, and are determined to pay so much in the pound."

Mr. COBBETT must say, that every man who might be forced to take arms in defence of that Noble Lord's property, was deserving of a vote in the elections of those persons by whom his life and his property, however humble, were to be protected. If that were the case, the property of the Noble Lord would be safe, and the freeholders of Kent would not see the disgraceful anomaly of the Electors holding one opinion, and one of their Members another. *(Cheers).* They would not see their Representatives, like an angry man and wife in a post-chaise, one looking out of one window and one out of the other.

A Mr. BICKNELL addressed the Meeting, and recommended the exclusion of political discussion, a confidence in Parliament, and the appointment of a Committee to receive subscriptions to relieve the distresses of the County of Kent.

After some further observations, it was decided that Mr. Cobbett's Rider should form part of the Petition; and the Petition thus added to was carried, with the exception of three or four hands, among whom was that of Lord Darnley. A Vote of Thanks was proposed to Mr. Hume for his able exertions in Parliament, but the High Sheriff declining putting it, as it was not included in the Requisition. It was, however, ultimately put and carried with loud applause.—Thanks were voted to the Sheriff, and the Meeting dispersed.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, JUNE 8.—Thursday, after the Sitting of the Chamber of Deputies, M. Benjamin Constant demanded satisfaction of Mr. Forbin des Issarts, for a letter inserted by the latter in the *Quotidienne* of the 5th. Without any other explanation, the Hon. Deputies proceeded yesterday morning to the ground. M. Benjamin Constant was accompanied by General Sebastiany and M. Girardin, and M. Forbin des Issarts by General the Count de Bethisy, and Colonel Chamoin. M. Benjamin Constant being lame, he and his adversary were placed at ten paces distance on chairs. They fired together by signal, neither was hurt, and M. Benjamin Constant appearing satisfied, the seconds decided that the combat ought to terminate. It is impossible to shew more *sang-froid* than was manifested by the Honourable Deputies.—*Quotidienne.*

ANSWER OF THE KING TO THE ADDRESS OF THE CHAMBER OF PEERS.

"I always receive, with pleasure, the expression of the sentiments of the Chamber of Peers; and I am sensible of the promptitude with which it has answered our appeal. *Since the opening of the Session I have received accounts which assure me that peace will not be disturbed in the East.* It is with the highest satisfaction that I announce to you this intelligence."

GREECE.

The Turks have sacked several villages in the neighbourhood of Salonica, in consequence of the inhabitants refusing to suffer themselves to be disarmed. The Greeks, complying with the wishes of their wives and daughters, have immolated them with their own hands, that they might not be violated by the Barbarians.—Ten thousand women and children have been sold as slaves at ten and fifteen piastres per head. It is thought that the Divan has issued several orders to massacre all the Greeks.

The *Augsburg Gazette* has the following news brought by the courier from Smyrna:—"The Turkish squadron, consisting of 22 ships, chiefly of the first class, has been attacked by the Greek squadron of 70 vessels. The Greeks succeeded in burning two ships of the line, two frigates, one corvette, three brigs, and four gun-boats. It was feared at Smyrna that this check would again excite the fury of the Turks."

ITALY.

VIENNA, MAY 27.—The *Messagiere Modenese* gives an account of the assassination of the Provincial Director of the Police, Giulio Besini, on the 15th, by two persons, one of whom ran a short sword through his body. He survived a couple of hours, during which he received the sacrament, and pardoned his assassins, declaring that he died in peace, because he fell a victim to the performance of his duty. Our Sovereign, deeply affected at the loss of a faithful servant, who has fallen a victim to his zeal in the performance of his duty, has directed every exertion to be made for the exemplary punishment of the perpetrators. A new victim to the fury of the wicked sect of the Carbonari has fallen at Cesena. A hopeful young man of the name of Crudeli had voluntarily quitted the sect in consequence of the last Bull of the Head of the Church. His father was greatly pleased at this act of his son, but a few days after, the corpse of the latter, shockingly mangled, was found in the city ditch. A couple of daggers, bearing the secret marks of the Carbonari, were still sticking in the body. Several notices were posted up at Cesena, threatening all the Members who withdrew from the Society, with the fate of Crudeli. The local authorities are using every exertion to discover the perpetrators.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Extract of a letter from Havannah, dated April 26:—"The brig of war Achilles, and corvette Maria Francisca, have arrived here from Vera Cruz, with the merchant ships Fama and Union. The united sums on board of these vessels amount to about three millions of dollars, chiefly bound to Cadiz. In Mexico it is by this time expected that a Civil War has broken out, for Iturbide insists on having the Imperial Crown for himself, and the Congress, People, and Soldiery, are determined that neither he nor any of his family shall reign over them. When the last accounts left the Mexican Capital, all the inhabitants were in a state of consternation, daily expecting hostilities to break out."

UNITED PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, June 13.

The LORD CHANCELLOR brought in a bill to enable the Lord Chancellor, Lord Keeper, in cases of bankruptcy under joint commissions, to supersede the commission against any single bankrupt who might satisfy his creditors. By the effect of the present state of the bankrupt laws, in cases of copartnership, the commission cannot be superseded with respect to one without being superseded with respect to all. To obviate this difficulty was the object of the bill now submitted. It appeared due to the feelings of individuals to make such a distinction as to a copartner who could pay his quota; for a man might regard himself as standing in a very different situation in society when his bankruptcy was superseded, than he would if he received a certificate along with others. On Monday, he would bring in another bill more extensive in its object. A third bill which he intended to introduce, might be printed and circulated, and taken up again next session, after the opinions of persons qualified to judge of the effect of its operation should be obtained.—The bill was read a first time.—Adjourned.

Friday, June 14.

STATE OF IRELAND.

The Marquis of LANSDOWN, in a very comprehensive and able speech, called the attention of their Lordships to the melancholy state of Ireland. It was, he said, surely high time to enquire how it happened, that though 20 years had elapsed since the Union, the advantages of the English Constitution had not been extended to that portion of the Empire—why it was, that a perverse system of legislation was continually applied to Ireland—and from what cause it arose that the cup of health and gladness, as applied to England, was in that country to be continually converted into a poisonous draught. The misfortunes of Ireland did not arise from any visitation of Providence: it possessed great natural advantages; yet the people were starving in the midst of plenty. The evils therefore must be looked for in the system of Government. The

population of Ireland was in 1695 only 1,034,000; in 1821, it had risen to 6,846,000. Of this population, one-fourteenth were of the Established Church, one-fourteenth Presbyterians, and twelve-fourteenths Catholics. The Noble Marquis proceeded to notice the various evils under which the nation laboured—its potatoe-food system—electioneering system—taxation and tithe systems, &c. &c. He quoted Bacon's prediction, that Ireland civilized would become more dangerous than Ireland savage; and earnestly called upon their Lordships to correct the many frightful abuses he had pointed out, by adopting a wise and manly and effectual system of legislation. He concluded by moving, "That it is the opinion of this House that the state of Ireland indispensibly requires the immediate attention of Parliament, with a view to improve its condition, and more effectually to secure its tranquillity."

Lord LIVERPOOL could not agree to the motion, because it implied a censure on Government, which it did not merit; he should therefore move the previous question. He said that nine-tenths of the evils of Ireland were attributable, not to the Government, but to the state of society, in the relation between the labourers and the holders of property. All the insurrections in that country, but one, had been directed against property rather than Government. He did not deny that there were evils in the tithe system, and a measure had been proposed to remedy them in some degree; but it was the subdivision of property that arrested the progress of civilization in Ireland. The earliest as well as latest thoughts of his Noble friend at the head of the Irish Government, were turned to the remedies for the condition of Ireland.

The debate was continued by several Noble Lords, and Lord HOLLAND took a part in it. In the course of his able speech, alluding to the tythe system, he said, that whenever the advantage of the community and the advantage of the church came in conflict, he was always prepared to give the whole of the benefit to the community. He knew of no power in the ecclesiastical branch of the State, as he knew of no power in the State itself, but that which existed for the good of the people. Although it might not be expressed in words, yet such was the true spirit of the Constitution of England *(hear hear hear)!* The time had arrived at which these principles must be acted upon as they respected Ireland. If the ingenuity of man had been exercised in devising a way of paying a Church, calculated more than any other to produce at once the instability of that Church and the discontent of the people, it would be the mode by which tithes were exacted from the great mass of the population of Ireland, for the purpose of supporting a clergy of a persuasion that did not amount to a fourteenth part of that population!—The LORD CHANCELLOR, on the contrary, maintained that Parliament had just as much right to interfere with rents as to interfere with the dues of the Church. When he bought any landed property, he said, he bought nine-tenths of that property, and no more; the other tenth belonged to the Church, to which the Church was as much entitled as the Noble Lord was to his nine-tenths.

On a division, there was a majority of 108 to 60 against the motion.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, June 10.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

Sir R. WILSON stated, that a family of the name of Birouka had been saved in 1821 by the French Consul, M. de Pouqueville, from the massacre at Patras. This family consisted of an old man of seventy-six years, his wife, three married daughters and their children, amounting in all to fifteen persons. They took refuge in Ithaca, where they were most hospitably received, and continued till March last, when they were directed to remove to the Morea. They made representations against this order, alleging that they had all along conducted themselves as peaceable inhabitants, and that they would continue to do so if they were permitted to continue. The order for their departure was, however, reiterated, when they begged to be allowed to remain for a time to leave a chance for escaping the Barbary Corsairs, of which the seas were full. This also was refused; they were obliged to sail, and were almost immediately captured. The old man was desperately wounded, and the whole family sold to slavery in Algiers. If the facts were true, the bare mention of them, he hoped, would be a sufficient inducement to the Government to use its utmost exertion to remedy the evils which had been inflicted by this exertion of authority. He wished at the same time to ask, whether the Secretary for the Colonies had any objection to produce the representation of Signor Rossi, given in to Lord Bathurst in July last?

Mr. WILMOT said, that not a word of information respecting the family of Birouka had reached the Colonial Office. He should certainly feel it his duty to make inquiries; and the result should be communicated to the Hon. Member. As to the representation of Signor Rossi, it was an *ex-parte* statement, and there would be an inconvenience in producing it.

CORN IMPORTATION BILL.

Lord LONDONDERRY moved the Order of the Day for going into the Report on the Corn Importation Bill. The clause introduced by his Right Hon. Friend (Mr. Canning), allowing the grinding of foreign corn now in the warehouses, was not, he understood, agreeable to several Members; he therefore intended to oppose that clause; in the mean time, lest it should injure the success of a Bill, the principle of which was allowed to be good, his Right Hon. Friend could introduce it as a separate Bill afterwards.

After some conversation a division took place, when the clause was negatived by 116 to 31. Upon which Mr. HUME remarked, that it was to be regretted that the Noble Marquess should change his mind so often. A few evenings since, on the clause against which the House had just decided, he was one of those who had voted with the Noble Marquess in a very large majority, he had now voted in opposition to the Noble Lord in a very small minority—a proof, if a proof were wanted, that any thing Ministers were willing to do, that House was ready to support. To use a phrase of the Noble Lord's, the fact afforded a "practical example" of what the House really was—a House willing to do any thing Ministers wanted—a House willing to change its opinions with Ministers as often as Ministers wished.

Lord LONDONDERRY said, it would be recollected that that night was the first time the clause had been discussed with a view to have a decision taken upon it. His Right Hon. Friend was suffered to annex the clause to the Report, but no pledge had been given to support it.*

MARRIAGE SERVICE ACT.

Mr. W. SMITH moved that this Bill be read a second time that day six months. When he first brought in the Bill, he did not anticipate any objection to it, but he found there were clauses in it which were against the religious feelings of some parties. He was therefore anxious to withdraw it and bring in a new Bill.—The motion was agreed to, and leave given to bring in a new Bill.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, June 11.

On the presentation of a petition from the Pilchard Fishery in Cornwall, complaining of the modification of the duty on Salt, which would operate on them as a new tax,—a conversation rose, in which several Members, on each side of the House, spoke strongly of the ill-effects that would result from the new regulations. Mr. VANSITTART announced, that it was intended to repeal the duty on Scotch salt, leaving the English salt used in the manufactories in Scotland subject to the duty, 2s. a bushel. With regard to Ireland, the duty on Exportation to that country would be reduced to the level of the duty now paid in Ireland, 2s. on white salt, and 1s. 6d. on rock salt, Irish currency.—Mr. CALCRAFT said, that this exemption would be of no service to the Scotch fisheries, as they all used English salt; and other Members still pressed on Ministers the propriety of giving up the duty of 2s. a bushel intended to be retained.

CASH PAYMENTS.

Mr. WESTERN brought forward his motion respecting the effect of Cash Payments on the agricultural interests. He admitted that the weight of taxes, without any other cause, would have pressed hard on the industry of the country, as would also the defective laws designed for the protection of agriculture; but these and other grounds for complaint had existed for years without producing calamities like the present. Every individual in the country suffered from the unfortunate measure affecting the currency—even the fundholders and annuitants would feel its injurious tendency, as it affected the ultimate security of their incomes, for those incomes depended on the general prosperity. On the most moderate calculation, the late Act had added 10 or 15 per cent. to the public burthens. He contended, that the reduction in the price of corn arose from a scarcity of the currency, not from a redundancy of the commodity, for a corresponding reduction had taken place in other articles which were not redundant. In 1821, to meet sixty millions of taxation, we were paying nearly double in the article of corn that we were paying in 1813, to meet a taxation of 74,674,798*l.* Burthens were thus accumulated on the industry of the people, and they were taxed to 90 millions instead of 60, the nominal amount. In passing the Bill of 1819, they had only considered the capacity of the Bank to fulfil its engagements. In endeavouring to restore the currency to its ancient standard at once, they had produced evils infinitely greater than the one they had

* It is a fact worth notice, that in the *Courier's* account of this debate, not one line of Mr. Hume's observations is given, though they appeared in the morning papers from which the ministerial hack regularly copies the debates. The *Courier* is even afraid that its own readers should know all that passes in the Honourable House! This looks well for the people, if not for the *Courier*.

desired to be relieved from. They had departed from the ancient standard for 22 years—immense contracts had been made through a different medium—a debt of 800 millions had been created—and under all these circumstances it was quite impossible to persist in reverting to the ancient standard. There was, he well knew, but a choice of difficulties, but they should take that least likely to injure the general prosperity. The course he meant to recommend would be one by which the public creditor would have his dividend duly paid, the burdens of the people would be lightened, and the general prosperity of the country would be established. And by what process? Only by the substitution of a system which should give the *fair* value to the products of industry of every description, should give them the same relative money price they commanded during the suspension of Cash Payments, and secure a fair and reciprocal remuneration for the general industry of the country.—He concluded by moving "that a Committee be appointed to consider of the effects produced by the Act of the 59th of George III., cap. 14, on the Agriculture, Manufactures, and Commerce of the United Empire, and on the general condition of the different classes of Society therein, and to report thereon to the House.

Mr. Huskisson said, he had listened to the Hon. Gentleman's speech with astonishment and regret; with astonishment at some of his propositions, and with regret, because the course he had recommended would be subversive of public faith and violate all the principles of justice. The dangerous doctrine now attempted to be established, that debts ought to be paid in a different currency, as it was called, from that in which they were contracted, might be a very appropriate one for some needy creditor, but was unworthy the sanction of that House. If they were now to disturb the nominal value of the currency, they must examine into the situation of every individual in every contract existing, as to how far his circumstances had been affected by the altered value of the currency: and in the case of the public creditor, would any one be able to distinguish the claims arising in one year from those arising in another? Each particular loan must be looked to, they must ascertain the difference between the real and the nominal value of all the monies advanced, and they must make a proportionate abatement from the interest at present payable to the public creditor. Could any one think such an abatement practicable? No; the consequences would be fatal to the property, and consequently to the honour and power of the nation. Mr. Huskisson said, it was in the evidence in the agricultural reports of 1814 and last year, that the rent of land had at least doubled; and if so, the landed proprietor had received a full compensation. On the other hand, the possessor of a fixed monied income remained liable to all fluctuations, and throughout paid an equal share of taxation, independently of the injury he received from a change in the value of the funds. To say, therefore, that the landed proprietor was in a worse situation than the owner of a fixed income, was a mistake and misrepresentation. He was perfectly satisfied that it was impossible that the rent of land should fall back for a continuance to what it was before 1797; and he maintained that the land-owner, during the period of the suspension of cash payments, enjoyed a compensation not offered to the fund-owner, and was even now placed in a situation of comparative advantage. But there was another class connected with the land, certainly more affected by the alteration in the currency—he meant the tenantry; and this was one of the evils arising from having deviated from the standard of value. The evil system, which the Hon. Member thought so good, could only lead to an excessive degree of speculation in agriculture; and looking back to 1811, and to the distress then arising out of overtrading, he believed that a sufficient warning would be afforded. Was the Hon. Gentleman aware of the fatal results which would accrue to the property of the country if the House were to adopt his proposal? The result would be to place the country in that state of distress in which he stated it, *erroneously*, to be at present. It would occasion a general stagnation of business, a demand upon his debtor from every creditor, and the destruction of the credit of the Bank of England, and all country banks. If, as the Hon. Gentleman contended, every class was involved in difficulties, by what class were the public burdens borne; He (Mr. Huskisson) was of opinion, that the country exhibited the most flattering signs of prosperity. He thought the House would not do its duty, if it contented itself with giving merely a negative to the motion of the Hon. Gentleman. Since the House had replaced the coinage upon a true basis, they ought to act in such a manner as to leave no doubt existing in the minds of the people as to the course which would be hereafter pursued upon this subject. Feeling strongly the necessity of quieting the apprehensions of the people, and being desirous to prevent the mischiefs that must result from the adoption of the propositions of the Hon. Gentleman, he thought he could not do better than conclude by calling upon the House to re-affirm the resolution of 1696. He then moved, as an amendment, "That this House will not alter the standard of gold or silver in fineness, weight, or denomination. *(Hear.)*

Lord A. Hamilton was surprised that the Rt. Hon. Gentleman had assumed all along that the Country was in a prosperous condition! He had asserted, that by acceding to the proposition, the House would commit great injustice towards debtors. Now it formed one of the grounds of complaint against the bill which provided for the return to cash payments, that it oppressed the debtor and benefitted the creditor. The Rt. Hon. Gentleman had asked, what was to be done with respect to the national debt? He would ask what was to be done with respect to the payment of that debt? The paying of the interest of that debt now caused the ruin of a large class of the community. As a proof of this, he would refer the Rt. Hon. Gentleman to the Report of the Agricultural Committee, of which he was generally deemed the author, in which it was stated, that tenants were at present compelled to pay out of their capitals. The resumption of cash payments had done, and was still doing great injury to a large portion of the community. The only object of the motion was to inquire how the people might sustain the least quantity of damage from that measure.—He warned the House not to continue its approbation of the present system, merely because it was sanctioned by high authority. Great men had bestowed their approbation upon some of the most destructive measures. Individuals of high reputation had supported the Bank Restriction Act. A few years after came that second gross and mischievous resolution with respect to the value of the pound note. That resolution declared the pound note and the shilling to be equal in public estimation to the guinea; and immediately after came a bill into the House to prevent the sale of guineas at 26s. each. The situation of the country was such as to threaten mischief. Instead of growing better, matters, he believed, were daily growing worse. If the manufacturers were pressed, they would not be answered as the agriculturists had been, with "You must bear your calamities. Some part of the country must suffer. Parliament imposes the burden upon you; and you must bear it and be silent." That language would not do with the manufacturers; and the crisis he (Lord A. Hamilton) believed was not unlikely to occur; for certainly the prosperity of our trading interests was much exaggerated. He was not prepared to vote for a change in the standard of the currency; but he did think that some means might be devised of throwing the mass of calamity more equally over the country.

The further debate on Mr. Western's proposition was now postponed, and the House adjourned.

Wednesday, June 12.

On the presentation of an Agricultural Petition for retrenchment and reform, from Northamptonshire, signed by 700 farmers, Mr. Cartwright observed, that not one of the resident Gentry had signed the requisition for the Meeting. Upon which Mr. Cobb remarked, that it was the Country Gentlemen who had brought the country into its present difficulties, and he thought they were now justly served: he did not pity one of them. *(Hear.)* He lamented the situation of the yeomanry, but he believed that the distress which they already felt was only a thousandth part of that which they were yet destined to experience.

RESUMPTION OF CASH PAYMENTS ACT.

The Debate on Mr. Western's proposition was resumed by Mr. G. Bennett, who maintained that the Act had doubled every debt and mortgage, and compelled the public creditor to pay the fund-holder much more than he had ever received. The House was bound to consider whether they could oppose any dam to the flood of misery which now overwhelmed the country. The subject should at all events be reconsidered.

Alderman Heygate was an enemy to an uncontrouled paper currency, but he should vote for the motion, that the matter might be again investigated.

Mr. Gurney and Mr. Leycester said they should vote for the motion, for the same reason.

Mr. Haldimand was of opinion that it was now too late to reconsider the measure.

Mr. Ricardo entered into various statements, and explained his opinions upon the subject. He thought they had pursued a wise course in returning to the ancient standard, though he regretted that it caused some pressure. He said the Act of 1819 had excited vague fears and alarms, which were now over; the currency was in law and in public opinion settled, and to unsettle the principle would create a fever in the public mind, and be productive of much mischief.

Sir F. Burdett, on the contrary, was decidedly of opinion that they were bound in policy as well as justice to inquire into this grievance, and to do something to relieve the country from that pressure, which if not speedily aided, they would be unable much longer to bear. *(Hear, hear!)* Gentlemen had talked of justice. Good God! Would any man believe that we after having borne a

depreciated paper currency for near half a century, or at least for the last 27 years, during which period the great proportion of the debt had been incurred—new taxes imposed—the Civil List augmented on the ground of depreciation—would it, he asked, be believed after this that there could exist a doubt of the extent of injury inflicted by the recent alteration? The Country Gentlemen had in fact gone on without knowing exactly what they were about. They acted upon what they called the system of high prices—every contract with Government, every burden on the people, was made with a view to those high prices. Did they doubt of this being the fact? If they did, let them recollect that up to 1811 it was denied that any depreciation had taken place in our paper currency; nay more—in that same year the House of Commons passed a Resolution, declaring that a pound note and a shilling were equal to a guinea. The ignorance of Ministers, some persons would perhaps call it the corruption of Ministers, had, in 1797, laid the foundation of all the evils under which we were now suffering. What his Hon. Friend (Mr. Western) wished for was, that there should be a fixed standard of value, at the rate at which it stood in 1814. How the contracts made since the alteration of the currency were to be managed he did not pretend to determine. *(Cries of hear!)* But it would well become those Gentlemen who cried hear, hear! to enter upon the inquiry, and to avoid in future the ruin into which they had already plunged the country. If the Noble Lord (Londonderry) was not prepared with some remedy—if he was unable or unwilling to lead the country out of the labyrinth of difficulties into which he had brought it, then was it his Lordship's bounden duty to retire from his office! *(Hear, hear, hear.)* Unless the Noble Lord was ready to afford to the distresses of the people that relief which was so loudly called for, he ought at once to throw up his situation.

Mr. Atwood observed, that the real question was, whether the currency had not been depreciated? Whether, by making its real coincidence with its nominal value, they had not increased all taxes, all salaries, all debts, all engagements to pay, and whether they had not thus created an evil more extensive than any other which could be produced by an alteration of the currency. *(Hear, hear, hear!)* The operation of the Bill of 1819 could not but produce the effect on prices which they had witnessed. The price of corn, in 1818, was 84*s.* now it was 45*s.* Taking the three great materials of our manufactures, the fall was nearly as remarkable. Iron had fallen from 13*l.* to 8*l.* 10*s.*; Cotton, from 1*s.* to 6*d.*; Wool, from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.*—The general fall of prices on these great commodities was about 45*l.* per cent. If an individual laid out 55*l.* now, it would go as far as 100*l.* in 1818. What was the operation of the measure? Every debenture in the country was increased from 60*l.* to 100*l.*; and the creditor, by the operation of the measure, had as legal a claim for the 40*l.* which he never lent, as for the 60*l.* which he did lend. *(Hear, hear!)* The Bill went to authorize a confiscation of property, and an imprisonment of the person for debts never incurred *(Hear, hear!)*—it gave to an unfounded demand, all the force and authority of a legal and just claim—it increased a debt of 800 millions, under which the nation had been already sinking, by a sum of near 600 millions—it raised an annual amount of taxation of 55 millions to a sum of 100 millions. Such was the operation of the Bill—it committed wrong of unparalleled magnitude, and inflicted distress and embarrassment, the like of which was never before known. If that House refused to investigate the case, they would appear before the country callous to the public distress, or blinded by despair. A conflagration, which was raised by the hands of the Government, raged through the country, and threatened to consume all that was valuable. He called upon them to stop its progress, and to erect the temple of public prosperity—peace and confidence on the foundations of public justice. That House had already given sufficient proof of its weakness; had exhibited enough of presumption, and of confidence in itself—confidence which was altogether unfounded, without adopting the Amendment purposed by the Right Hon. Gentleman.

Mr. Peel said, the House, he hoped, would pause before they would adopt a proposition for reducing the value of the currency by one-third. An Hon. Gentleman had talked of securing the foundations of public prosperity; but what would be the consequence to-morrow if that night they adopted the propositions of the Hon. Gentleman? Every man of common sense would buy up every guinea in the country. The whole of the mercantile transactions would be disturbed, and all private contracts would be open to inquiry and to defeat. Mr. Peel maintained that the country was not in the gloomy condition which some had asserted. The poor-rates were diminished, and the revenue had increased; and from the correspondence he had received, the restoration of the currency had increased the wages and improved the condition of the labouring poor. It appeared in general that the consequence of a resumption of the metallic currency was a diminution of profits among the master-manufacturers, and an increase of the comforts of the labouring classes, the direct reverse of which was the case during the period of a paper currency.

Mr. Brougham considered the fixing of the standard an essential part of the policy of the country; but his doubt was, whether it had not been fixed lower than it ought to have been. Parliament had done this, and the country had therefore a right to demand a full investigation of all the circumstances of the case. It might be imagined from the language of Gentlemen on the other side, that they were now for the first time tampering with the currency; whereas, they had been doing nothing else for the last 20 years. Who had first broken the public faith? Who first interfered between debtor and creditor? Who first changed the character of all contracts, by obliging parties to pay 20*s.*, who had, in fact, contracted to pay but 14*s.*? Parliament; and the consequence was, that property had been transferred from one class of the community to another. The Hon. Secretary had alluded to the revenue as proof of the prosperous state of the country: but they had only to look at the wasted and dilapidated state of which every man complained. It was surely no answer to this to say, that the revenue was flourishing. The greater productiveness of the Excise did not arise from the improved condition of the labourer, but because the agriculturists were starving, and thus forced to sell their goods at whatever they would bring. But the good was by no means general—*(hear!)*—and that little could not continue if the agriculturists were forced to sell their produce at what was not a remunerating price. When this was the case, they might soon expect to find the manufacturing districts in the same misery as they were in 1817 and 1819. They had been told that the distress was not confined to this country, but where would they find on the Continent any thing at all comparable with the situation of this country? Another argument was, that the distress was owing to an excess of production; but where could they find such an excess? There had been no increase—no proportional increase of production. The price was the test of this, and the price had been ever since the close of the war higher than in 1792. It was in vain to say that the labourers, especially the agricultural labourers, were not suffering; for they were suffering in some instances even to breach of the peace. This was the case in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Sussex; and Ireland was on this account reduced to a state little short of absolute rebellion. He wished not to consider the resumption of cash payments as the sole cause of these evils, but was aware that then there was something to complain of. It was impossible to withdraw 10,000,000*l.* from the currency without doing a serious injury to the country. Ministers never intended to return to the currency of 1797. In 1811 they assented, by probably about the same majority that would negative the present motion, that the Bank note was equal to 20*s.* when in fact it was only equal to 16*s.*, and before two little months had passed away they had taken up an opposite opinion. For these reasons, he was for going into the measure, not that he pretended to see what would be the positive result; but because the country had a right to see that every attention was paid to a question so very important.

Lord Londonderry maintained that the present was not a time for an alteration in our currency. When the House heard the daily attempts which were made to shake the public faith—when, within the last 48 hours, they saw the attempt made, and with success, in a neighbouring county—when they saw a man, of whose talents he did not mean to speak disparagingly, get into a meeting of that county, and move a clause to be added to a Petition about to be presented to that House, which clause called on the House to deprive the public creditor of the fair interest of his debt—when such attempts were made, he would ask, was it a time for interfering with our currency, or was it not a time in which the House was called upon to affirm their former vote on the subject? He denied what had been so much insisted upon on the other side—that the standard had been altered. The payment of specie had only been suspended; and in every contract subsequently made, a reference was had to an expected return to cash payments.—He must protest, therefore, against any arguments founded upon such an assertion. If they wished to pass any measure to destroy public and private credit, and to throw all the operations of our industry into confusion, they could not find a measure more certain to do it than that proposed—with the best intentions he would allow—by the Hon. Member for Essex. The fixation of the standard was the only measure by which the country could hope to emerge from its present embarrassments; and as this was the case, he should call upon the House, not merely to negative the proposition of the Hon. Member, but to affirm the amendment of his Right Hon. Friend.—*(Hear, hear!)*

Mr. Western replied, but his remarks were not audible in the gallery.

The gallery was then cleared for a division, when there ap-

peared—For the Amendment, 194—Against it, 30—Majority, 164.—The House then adjourned at a quarter past three o'clock.

Thursday, June 13.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS.

Sir T. Lethbridge, adverting to the motion which he had postponed in accommodation to the Hon Member for Essex, stated that he did not think he could bring it forward this session.

ILCHESTER GAOL.

Mr. Alderman Wood rose to bring this subject under the consideration of the House.—Mr. Peel hoped the Hon. Alderman would withdraw it. The subject was now referred to a Committee of Magistrates, who were to inspect the gaol, and to consider whether it ought to be removed to another part of the county. Their Report would be made at the next Sessions.—The motion was withdrawn.

IRISH TITHES.

Mr. Goulburn brought forward his motion respecting Irish Tithes. Tithes, he said, were to all intents and purposes private property; and any forcible dispossession of the Church from its property, was a direct spoliation. Tithe was not only private property, but property held under the most ancient and unobjectionable title; it was the property of a class, perhaps the most respectable of the community; and it ought to be approached with a degree of carefulness and delicacy to which no other description of possession could lay claim. He was bound to declare, too, (setting aside occasional exceptions), that the property acquired by the church was beneficially distributed again through the kingdom. Apart from the indulgence of particular opinions, the merits of the clergy, as a body, must be confessed. Mr. Goulburn said, that the evils of the present system were, that the Clergyman was obliged to come upon the land with a distress, in order to obtain his dues, which brought him into constant and unpleasant contact with the poor parishioners, who generally had little community of feeling with him, and who for the most part, being of a different religion, were averse from payments of this kind. To remedy this he would bring in a Bill which would enable the incumbent to enter into leases of the tithes for 21 years, not with the occupier, but with the proprietor of the soil. One effect of the measure would be, that during the period of the lease, there would be no uncertainty of payment; it would be fixed and certain, and paid on days laid down in the lease, and thus even the poorest occupants would be induced to make some provision for the tithe, in the shape of rent. After various other observations, in which Mr. G. stated that this measure would not affect the general question of the commutation of tithes in Ireland, which was now under the consideration of Government, he moved for leave to bring in his Bill.

A conversation arose. Sir H. Parnell and Sir J. Newport did not approve of the proposed measure, and maintained that the Irish Clergy were not averse from a general commutation.—Mr. Plunkett said, the present measure would rather facilitate that arrangement than otherwise; but he confessed he could not see his way through the principle of commutation;—for if they opened the chapter of the Church, they would next be called upon to open the chapter of the landlord. *(Hear!)*—Mr. Spring Rice said he plainly saw there was no hope of a commutation, yet without it he was satisfied the discontents of Ireland would never be allayed.—Mr. Dennis Brown declared that he was quite of the same opinion.—Mr. Dawson maintained that rents pressed more heavily on the Irish people than tithes; but the reason of the outcry against the latter was, that the population was made up of Catholics, Presbyterians, and Protestants. The Catholic who had to support his own clergy, thought that was sufficient, and had besides scruples of conscience with respect to the propriety of supporting the clergy of another church. The Presbyterian disliked the pomp of the Church of England, and would willingly be relieved from the share he paid towards supporting it. The members of the Protestant church formed a comparatively small portion of the community. In their hands however all power was placed, and they constituted the landed proprietors of the country. If they found their rents not regularly paid, they were sometimes apt to attribute the circumstance to the tithe system. So that religious, political, and self-interested feelings produced this outcry.—Mr. O'Grady thought something should be done, as the tithe system was the chief cause of the disturbances in Ireland.—Lord Londonderry trusted that the fate of tithes in other countries would rather operate as a warning in this empire, and that principles that had desolated other states would not find admission here. He apprehended that the bill under consideration would operate much more beneficially than many Hon. Gentlemen supposed, and he looked upon it as a great boon which would tend materially to remove disturbances in Ireland.—Mr. C. Hutchinson begged to remind the Noble Marquis, that during the discussions on the Union, Mr. Pitt, besides impliedly promising Emancipation, had particularly alluded to the tithe system of Ireland as a grievance. Under the persuasion that it would be remedied, the Union was accomplished.—Mr. Carew contended that there would be no repose in Ireland until a commutation were effected.—Mr. Daly, we believe, said that although he should not object to the bringing in of the bill, he would oppose it in every subsequent stage.—Sir N. Colthurst thought a commutation necessary, with a view to the tranquillity of Ireland, and the security of the established Church.—Mr. Forster contended that the effect of the bill would rather be to excite than to tranquillize Ireland.—The question was carried wihout a division.

NAVAL AND MILITARY PENSIONS BILL.

The House resolved itself into a Committee on the above bill.—Mr. Hume entered his protest against the absurd and ridiculous plan of the Rt. Hon. Gentleman. He thought it would be more expedient to have recourse to the Sinking Fund at once.—The resolutions were agreed to, and the house adjourned.

Friday, June 14.

KENT COUNTY MEETING.

A conversation of some duration arose on the presentation of the Kent County Petition by Mr. Honywood, in which that Gentleman said, that no man more regretted that a rider had been tacked to it, calling upon Parliament to make a just reduction of the national debt, as soon as the House should have reformed itself.

Sir E. Knatchbull was convinced that nine-tenths of the freeholders were opposed to such a demand.

Lord J. Russel considered Parliamentary Reform as wholly unconnected with the National debt, and gave notice that he intended to renew his motion for Reform. To such a measure as that recommended in the petition he would never consent, except in a case of overwhelming necessity.

Lord Londonderry wished the petition might be placed on the table, to warn other Counties against being betrayed into the avowal of principles so disgraceful to themselves, and calculated to bring ruin on the Country. His Lordship disapproved of Lord J. Russell's observation respecting an "overwhelming necessity," which he protested against, as calculated to give too much countenance to the notion of that convenient sort of necessity, which might tempt Gentlemen to give their consent to the spoliation of property which belonged as justly to the public creditor, as the lands of the house of Bedford did to the Noble Lord's family.

To this Lord J. Russell replied, he was ready to retract the word "consent" if the Noble Lord wished it, but he really was not aware that the Noble Lord was such a critic about language *(a laugh)*. He (Lord J. R.) thought that the Whigs had been carried away by the feeling of the whole meeting, which feeling had been mainly produced by the measures of the Noble Lord opposite.

Mr. Calcraft said, he had reason to know that the individual who proposed this resolution was not certain of having it seconded, and that he had not the slightest expectation of seeing it adopted.

Mr. Brougham observed, that it was the fixed opinion of many Gentlemen who had had much experience at public meetings, that the meeting were decidedly in favour of this Resolution, and that all resistance on their part would have been unavailing. Such a proposition Mr. B. thought ought never to be entertained, but in circumstances of the greatest extremity.

Lord Clifton said, the Whigs had been taken by surprise at the Kent Meeting.

Mr. Peel observed, that the Whig leaders should have opposed Mr. Cobbett, and enlightened the freeholders of Kent: yet he preferred a manly proposition to dark insinuations, that magnified the danger while it seemed to conceal it.

Mr. Bennet said, that Government had itself, with their majorities, set the example of spoliation.

Mr. Western defended the proceedings at the Kent Meeting, and said that Ministers had defrauded both the public, and the public creditor. *(Hear, hear!)*

Mr. Hume said there was no reason to suppose that the petitioners did not mean to follow the example of Ministers, and recommend a reduction of the interest from 4 per cent to 3—just as they had done with the 5 per cents. He thought they were much too critical, considering the state into which they had plunged the nation.

Sir F. Burdett did not well understand what was said about Whig and Tory, for when they happened to change sides in the House, there was no knowing the difference. There were many who contended that the interest of the public debt ought in fairness to be reduced. *(Hear!)* Yes; that question had been entertained by the ablest men in the country: it was therefore no fault that the men of Kent should entertain it. They were guilty of no intention to commit fraud upon the public creditor; they did not refuse to pay 20s. in the pound; but they could not be

expected to abstain from complaining, when they were called upon to pay 30*s*. He would maintain, that in consequence of the alteration of the state of the currency, since great part of the debt was contracted, the whole country had to pay 30*s*. instead of 20*s*. He was so far from being sorry at the declaration of the necessity of reducing the interests of the public debt, that he was convinced nothing but such a reduction could produce the advantages which the country needed. Yes, that reduction was necessary for the salvation of the country. It seemed that the Right Hon. Secretary for the Home Department liked the plain dealing of Cobbett's proposition better than the insinuations of some Members of that House. If the Right Honourable Gentleman was so fond of plain dealing, it was well that himself and his colleagues were pursuing a course which would procure them enough of it *(Hear!)*; and he had no doubt that from the abundance of examples they would learn to practise *(Cheers)*. The Noble Lord must not, however, suppose that the people are to be imposed upon by schemes which any idiot might unravel. When the Government looked at their own schemes, and at the results to which those schemes had led, they had no great cause to find fault with or to brand any man. *(Cheers.)*

Mr. MONK wondered that the Right Hon. Gentlemen could be so warm about public faith, considering that they had got the nation into a debt which it could never discharge, and had therefore committed the grossest imposition.

After various explanations from Lord Londonderry, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Calcraft, and Sir E. Knatchbull, the motion for printing the petition was carried.

ALIEN BILL.

Sir J. MACINTOSH, after a very eloquent speech, moved that the Alien Bill be read a second time this day six months.—Mr. PLUNKETT replied to Sir James's arguments; and Mr. HUME proposed that the debate should be adjourned. This motion was lost by 166 to 16; and the second reading was carried by 108 to 74.—Adjourned till Monday.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

J. Banting, Cumberland-street, New-road, carpenter.

BANKRUPTS.

T. Shipway, Tidcorth-Warren-farm, Hampshire, sheep-dealer. Attornies, Messrs. Bousfield and Williams, Bouverie-street.

J. Billington, Manchester, shopkeeper. Attornies, Messrs. Adlington, Gregory, and Faulkner, Bedford-row.

J. Haines, Lubenham, Leicestershire, baker. Attornies, Messrs. Montriou and Locock, King's-arms-yard, Coleman-street.

R. Husband, Plymouth, mercer. Attorney, Mr. Makinson, Middle Temple.

H. Cobb, Graveney, Kent, farmer. Attornies, Messrs. Lowe and Bower, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane.

R. Bradbury, Stone, Staffordshire, dealer. Attorney, Mr. Barbor, Fetter-lane.

G. Brammall, Sheffield, merchant. Attorney, Mr. Duncan, Gray's inn.

T. Bethell, Poole, painter. Attornies, Messrs. Holme, Frampton, and Loftus, New-inn.

H. Quilter, Leicester, victualler. Attornies, Messrs. Holme, Frampton, and Loftus, New-inn.

S. Willing, Plymouth, corn-merchant. Attorney, Mr. Wright, Inner Temple.

T. Olley, Clare, Suffolk, maltster. Attorney, Mr. Stevens, Gray's Inn-square.

S. C. Boyd, Oxford, wine-merchant. Attorney, Mr. Bridger, Angel-court, Throgmorton-street.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTCIES SUPERSEDED.

J. Bridge, Marple, Chester, shopkeeper.

BANKRUPTS.

W. N. Hales, Stafford, mercer. Attornies, Messrs. Williams and White, Old-buildings, Lincoln's-inn.

W. Rashbrook, Lavenham, Suffolk, farmer. Attorney, Mr. Chilton, Chancery-lane.

A. Bateman, Bristol, victualler. Attornies, Messrs. Poole and Greenfield, Gray-inn-square.

C. F. Maddock, Plymouth, linen-draper. Attorney, Mr. Hine, Essex-court, Temple.

T. Jenkins, Llainvithen, Glamorgan, dealer and chapman. Attorney, Mr. Jonas Gregory, Clement's-inn.

M. Spoor, North Shields, upholsterer. Attorney, Mr. Francis, Sun-court, Cornhill.

W. Watson, Chelsea, brewer. Attornies, Messrs. Vandercom and Comyn, Bush-lane, Cannon-street.

N. Harris, Southampton, coach-master. Attornies, Messrs. Wills and Dougan, Bedford-row.

J. Huntington, jeweller, Snow-hill. Attorney, Mr. Mayhew, Chancery-lane.

W. Fothergill, Cannon-street-road, ship-owner. Attornies, Messrs. Nind and Cotterill, Throgmorton-street.

H. Trigg and J. Ratcliff, Hertford, timber-merchants. Attorney, Mr. Hewitt, Token-house-yard, Lothbury.

R. Boardman, Liverpool, merchant. Attornies, Messrs. Adlington, Gregory, and Faulkner, Bedford-row.

J. Cox, Pensford, Somerset. mealman. Attorney, Mr. Dix, Symond's-inn.

F. Naish, Twerton, Somerset, clothier. Attornies, Messrs. Adlington and Gregory, Bedford-row.

J. Bell, Suffolk-lane, wine-merchant. Attornies, Messrs. Paterson and Pell, Old Broad-street.

W. Gould and F. Greasley, Maiden-lane, Wood-street, hosiers. Attorney, Mr. Arden, Clifford's-inn.

H. F. Pelerin, Lloyd's Coffee-house, Insurance-broker. Attorney, Mr. Evans, Hatton-garden.

THE FUNDS.—Notwithstanding the pacific tendency of all news from the Continent, and the corroboration afforded to it by the answers of the King of France to the French chambers, the market has continued very stationary during the whole of the week. The fact is, that this question has for some time ceased to operate upon prices, which have been much more affected by the extraordinary avidity for jobbing in the Foreign Funds. The speculation in those of Spain and Chili is carried to a great extent. The former rose one per cent. on Friday, in consequence, it is said, of favourable news from Spain. This spirit of adventure, in Foreign Stock, is engrossing no mean portion of British Capital, and evidently keeps down our own. Little or no business was done yesterday.—Latest quotation :—

Consols.....	shut	Four per Cents	95¼
Reduced	79⅛	Consols for Account	80⅛

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, JUNE 16.

IT seems likely that hostilities will not now take place between Russia and Turkey. The French King, in his reply to the Chamber of Peers, congratulates them that the peace of the East will not be disturbed, meaning that the two grand Despots, holy and unholy, have patched up their quarrel for the present. How this matter has been brought about, is not yet known; but it is intimated, that the several Crowned Heads, to whom the continuance of peace was necessary, in order that their own subjects and vassals might not take advantage of a state of war to assert their rights, have not only clubbed their wits, but their purses also, to persuade ALEXANDER to let the Turks alone. They are all to contribute, it is said, to the expenses of his armaments,—England, perhaps, among them, as her very liberal Ministers are never shy of taking the public money for any such "legitimate" purpose. Russia may certainly postpone, but she will never give up her designs upon Turkey; and when the harmony which at present prevails among the Holy Allies is at an end,—and there can be no durable friendship among the wicked, great or little,—she will proceed in her work of conquest in the East.—How this pacification may affect the glorious cause of the Greeks, we fear almost to consider. A handful of brave people, before now, have worked out their salvation, when fighting against numbers in the cause of justice and liberty; but, in these days, we witness so often the triumphs of injustice and despotism, that we cannot but have our misgivings.

DISTRESS IN IRELAND.—The miseries of the Irish poor seem on the increase rather than otherwise. Disease, the usual attendant on extreme want, is now spreading in almost every direction. The accounts are heart-rending; and the following fact would alone be sufficient to shew the dreadful suffering of the unhappy peasantry:—"On Monday last a gentleman, who is a member of one of our sub-committees, had fifty head of cattle blooded. A crowd of persons assembled at the time began *fighting for the blood, to use it instead of food!* Shocked at the scene, the gentleman instantly threw open his meal-store to satisfy the cravings of the people, and prevent them from resorting to a measure exceeded only by cannibalism."—*Sligo Journal.*—Only think of this state of things in a country overflowing with flesh-meat and grain of all kinds! Here is no visitation of famine, properly speaking, for Ireland is daily exporting the chief necessaries of life, while its wretched inhabitants are feeding on grass and bitter sea-weed and offal of every description, and are even fighting for the impure blood of cattle! There is in fact no want of provisions in Ireland—its markets, like our own, are glutted; but there is a total want of the means with which to purchase them; and hence these appalling scenes. Why is all this? Why, but from the abominable system which has so long prevailed in this ill-starred land, where the gifts of a bountiful Providence are engrossed by the few, while the many are drooping and dying in the very highways, the victims of want and disease.—The Papers mentioned the other day, that the *personal* property alone of a deceased Irish Bishop amounted to two hundred thousand pounds! This Right Reverend Accumulator could scarcely have believed that it is hard for a rich man to get to heaven, or that it is more blessed to give than to receive. But what are the wealthy of Ireland about all this time—what are this Bishop's well-endowed brethren doing with *their* abundance—what the overpaid Public Functionaries, the Nobles, and the rich Land-owners, with theirs?—all of which, it must never be forgotten, they owe to the exertions of the very people who are now falling about them like leaves in autumn. And what, we really cannot help asking, has the KING OF IRELAND done for a people, who hailed him on their shores as a deliverer, and of whom he and his Courtiers spoke in such singular strains of approbation? Has *he* made any sacrifices, either in purse or person, in order to relieve his admiring subjects in this their extreme state of suffering?—Yes; he has patronised a Grand Ball at the Opera-house, and attended it in person, purely for their benefit.

Mr. Western's motion on the subject of Cash Payments, it will be seen, was lost by a large majority, after a two nights' discussion. This must be considered as the commencement only of the grand struggle between the landed and the monied interests.

On the presentation of the Kent County Petition on Friday, a smart discussion ensued, when Sir F. BURDETT and others uttered some very plain and useful truths. It is quite clear that Lord LONDONDERRY is in no small alarm lest the Kent example should be followed by the other counties.

Mr. Stuart, who was compelled by the Government libellers in Scotland to defend his character at the risk of his life, has been acquitted of the charge of "wilful murder" in causing the death of Sir A. Boswell. The trial will be found highly interesting, and exhibits Mr. Stuart's character and conduct in a very amiable and manly light.—Let the secret assassins in London read and tremble.

NATIONAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—There was yesterday a Meeting of the friends to this excellent Institution at Freemasons' Hall. The Earl of Darnley was in the Chair, from which he earnestly recommended the interests of the Institution to the assembly, and concluded his address by laying on the table his own subscription.—This is the only general Charity for the permanent relief of persons of education and talent, who may in their old age be reduced to want; and we know that its funds are most honourably and humanely distributed.

A ballot was on Wednesday taken at Lloyd's, upon a proposition to vote 500*l.* from their funds for the Irish subscription, when *it was lost* by a majority of 23; the numbers being, for the vote 246, and against it 269.

COURT AND FASHIONABLES.

" . . . . . Courtesy,
" Which oft is soonest found in lowly sheds
" With smoky rafters, than in tapestry halls
" In Courts of Princes, where it first was named
" And yet is most pretended.

There are two or three popular reports for the postponement of his Majesty's visit to the continent, for which definite arrangements had been made throughout Germany; and at one time it was even determined that the Royal Tourist should cross the Alps, and join the Confederated Holy Alliance at Florence, the Grand Duke of Tuscany having made an offer of a superb suite of apartments in the Palazzo Pitti, and the entire and exclusive range of the Boboli Gardens for the private and more sequestered comfort of his Royal Guest. But the Ministers have interposed solid objections to this journey, on the ground of the expense which would be incurred, at a moment when the whole kingdom is so clamourous for Reform and Retrenchment.—*Morning Chronicle.*

The crowded *Clerical Expectants,* at Carlton Palace, on Wednesday, occasioned the remark, that it was the most gloomy Levee since his Majesty's accession.

The excessive heat at the Levee, together with his Majesty's delicate state of health, obliged the King to retire to his private apartments at an earlier hour than usual.—*Morning Chronicle.*

ROYAL BON MOT.—Extract of a letter from London of the 3rd of June:—"The last fête of the Court was very brilliant. I speak of it merely to tell you that the King having perceived M. de Chateaubriand at a little distance before him in the crowd, ran after him, took him by the arm, and said to him,—'Where the Devil have you been all the evening; I have not been able to find you?' and that in French as perfect as that of the Ambassador."—*Quotidienne.*

TRIAL OF MR STUART.

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICIARY, EDINBURGH.

Monday, June 10.

It being understood that Mr. Stuart, of Dunearn, would this day surrender himself to stand his trial for the concern he had in the late duel, by which Sir Alexander Boswell, Bart. of Auchinleck, came by his death, every precaution had been taken to prevent the popular obstructions to the Court. The doors of the Parliament-house were thronged by the populace at an early hour; and a strong body of police was in attendance to preserve order. Precisely at half-past nine the doors were thrown open to the gentlemen of the legal profession, who instantaneously filled, not only the seats provided for them, but likewise every inch of standing room into which any portion of the long robe could possibly be squeezed.—At ten o'clock Mr. Stuart entered the Court. He was attended by the Earl of Moray, Admiral Fleming, Captain Gordon, David Erskine, Esq. and other particular friends. Several of the nobility and other distinguished persons were accommodated with seats on the Bench; one of these illustrious personages we understood to be Prince Czartorinski.—Their Lordships took their seats at half-past ten. Present, the Lord Justice Clerk, Lord Hermand, Lord Gillies, Lord Pitmilly, and Lord Succoth.—The Clerk then read the indictment, to which

Mr. Stuart answered in an audible voice, "My Lord, I am not guilty."

Mr. COCKBURN, on the part of the defender, said, that if he could speak the feelings of the accused, if he were allowed to

speak his own feelings, he should have no hesitation in admitting that the late Sir Alexander Boswell met his death at the hands of the accused: but his legal duty did not permit him to make that admission; and he could with truth declare, that of the extraordinary charges libelled in the indictment, his client was not guilty. He must also, in justice to the feelings of his client, declare that for the melancholy termination of the life of the deceased, no person on earth was more unfeignedly sorry than was the accused. The Learned Gent. proceeded to state, that all who knew the late Sir Alexander Boswell, must be aware that he possessed in a very extraordinary degree a gift which, when unassociated with the most amiable dispositions of the heart, was a very dangerous gift indeed—he alluded to his powerful talent for irony. [Mr. Cockburn here detailed all the facts relative to the establishment of the late *Beacon* and the present *Sentinel*, the contributions of the deceased to those publications, and the manner in which Mr. Stuart obtained the fatal evidence of the deceased's correspondence with those publications.] Adverting to the character of the accused, Mr. Cockburn said, that although he was rather unceremoniously styled in the indictment "James Stuart," it was probably known to the person who drew up that instrument, that Mr. Stuart was related to some of the most noble, most illustrious, and most ancient families in this land. Looking to that which was of more importance than birth—his conduct as a member of civil society—there were few public companies in the country with which he was connected that had not voted him their thanks; and the urbanity, the peace-making disposition of Mr. Stuart, was known to every person who knew Mr. Stuart. The Learned Gentleman went on to shew, that the deceased had received no provocation from Mr. Stuart to justify that daring, false, and capricious calumny in which he had indulged against the accused. The learned counsel here cited the opprobriums of the "Whig Song." Those indignities, Mr. Cockburn contended, imperiously imposed on Mr. Stuart the necessity of acting as he had done. The learned gentleman noticed many attempts at conciliation, both before and after an explanation had been demanded and refused; and justified the conduct of the accused on the field. In order to show the deadly intent of Sir Alexander Boswell, the learned gentleman cited the fact, that he had proposed that the duel should be fought in France, "because," he said, "if Mr. Stuart should fall, I should not like to answer for his death before a Scotch tribunal."

The *Earl of Rosslyn* was the first witness called, and he deposed to the following among other facts:—At the desire of Mr. Stuart he waited on Sir A. Boswell, to ask him if he was the author of the articles in the *Glasgow Sentinel*. He told Sir A. Boswell, that if he would say he was not the writer, and had not sent them to the newspaper, that would be sufficient. Sir A. Boswell said it was a delicate affair, and thought he should consult with a friend. Witness said he thought it would be desirable. He consulted Mr. Douglas, who afterwards told witness that he could not advise Sir A. Boswell to give any answer. Witness had copies of a song and a paper signed *Ignotus*, when he called on Sir A. Boswell. The song contained two direct imputations of cowardice.—[It has appeared in the *Examiner*.]—It was agreed between Mr. Douglas and Witness that a delay of 14 days should take place (at the wish of Sir A. Boswell, who had affairs to settle), and that the meeting should take place on the Continent. Witness subsequently asked Mr. Douglas if there was any possibility of not carrying this affair any further—that Mr. Stuart would be content to treat the song as a very bad joke on his part, provided Sir Alexander would say that he did not intend any reflection on Mr. Stuart's courage. Mr. Douglas said he had no hope that Sir Alexander would say any such thing. Sir Alexander changed his mind about meeting on the Continent; and it was finally settled that it should take place at Auchtertool. They met: the ground was measured 12 long paces: the pistols were delivered by Mr. Douglas and Witness, and it was agreed they should fire by word. Witness gave the word, and they fired. Sir Alexander fell. Every possible assistance was afforded to Sir Alexander, who was aided by medical assistants and Mr. Brougham, who during this transaction had remained upon a hill. Mr. Stuart advanced with great anxiety towards Sir Alexander. Witness hurried Mr. Stuart to go away. Before any thing took place on the ground, Mr. Stuart asked witness if it was not fit that he should make a bow to Sir Alexander, and express his wish for a reconciliation. Witness thought it right. Mr. Stuart advanced towards Sir Alexander, apparently for that purpose; Sir Alexander's back was then turned, and he appeared to be walking away from Mr. Stuart. Nothing material passed between Mr. Douglas and Witness on the field, relative to a reconciliation. Certainly witness felt every way disposed to promote such an object, if such a proposal had come from Mr. Douglas; but after what had passed the day before, he thought the case was desperate. From the whole of Mr. Stuart's conduct there was no appearance of personal ill-will or resentment on his part against Sir Alexander; but only anxious to defend his own character from the imputations with which it had been assailed, particularly from that of cowardice. Mr. Stuart's conduct, from first to last, was cool, composed, and temperate, and such as might be expected from a man of constancy and courage. This observation is applied as well to his conduct on the field as previously. On the field, witness desired Mr. Stuart to present his side, and not his bust; Mr. Stuart replied, "I do not think I ought to take an aim." The word agreed upon was (both parties having been asked if they were ready)—"Present, fire," as quickly in succession as he thought they could be given. Both the pistols went off, also, as quickly in succession as possible; but Mr. Stuart's pistol was rather the first. Received no intimation, nor had he any belief, that Sir Alexander did not intend to fire. Such an intimation would, in witness's judgment, have amounted to a declaration that Sir Alexander did not intend to fight: it would have been impossible for him, after such an intimation, to have allowed any further proceeding. Never, from all his acquaintance with Mr. Stuart, knew a man less quarrelsome or less vindictive.

Mr. Douglas confirmed the statement of Lord Rosslyn respecting the interviews and conversations that they had together when on the ground. Witness asked Lord Rosslyn if he thought there was any chance of an amicable arrangement. Lord Rosslyn said he feared not. Witness desired Dr. Wood not to stand so near: he replied, "he wished to be near, lest Sir Alexander might die before he could come up to his assistance." On their way to the ground, Sir Alexander consulted witness as to firing in the air or not. Witness said he must consult his own feelings on that subject. Sir Alexander said, he had, perhaps, in an unhappy moment, injured Mr. Stuart, and therefore he should fire in the air. Witness said, that was exactly his own opinion. On the field he did not notice how Sir Alexander fired, as he felt that Mr. Stuart was in no danger, but he kept his eye on Mr. Stuart. Saw him raise his arm, which appeared firm and nervous, but he could not tell the direction exactly in which it pointed. Both fired: Mr. Stuart's was rather first. Sir Alexander fell. The only words which Sir Alexander spoke to witness then were, that he regretted he had not made his fire in the air more decided than it had been. Sir Alexander's wound was not dressed on the field, but at Balmuto-house, whither he was immediatedly conveyed.—The Lord Advocate wished to ask the witness, whether, supposing the papers had not been in the handwriting of Sir A. Boswell, he would have permitted any questions about them to be answered?—Mr. Jeffrey objected to this question, and the witness was removed.—This question having been noted, Mr. Jeffrey was proceeding to state his objection, when Mr. Stuart rose, and addressing the Court, said he begged to wave all objections to any questions that might be put, as he wished for the fullest investigation. The witness was consequently recalled, and the Lord Advocate repeated his question. Witness replied, that he should not have advised an answer. The injury done to Mr. Stuart, to which Sir Alexander alluded in his carriage, witness understood to be some squibs that he had written concerning him. Sir Alexander had called on witness before he met Lord Rosslyn, and said he expected a challenge from Mr. Stuart, in consequence of a song having been seized from the *Sentinel* office. Sir Alexander recited the stanza which he considered obnoxious, and it was the same as that now shown to witness. On the journey a conversation took place in the carriage, in the presence of Dr. Wood. On its being considered whether there was any possibility of an amicable settlement, Sir Alexander said he felt convinced there was not; he did not know whether from an opinion that Mr. Stuart could do nothing else than fight, or whether from his own resolution: he rather thought the latter. Mr. Stuart conducted himself in every respect as became a man of honour and courage.

Dr. Wood detailed the circumstance of his having been called upon to accompany Sir. A. Boswell to the field; he had instructed the other surgeon, that they ought to turn their backs and not see the firing; but as soon as they heard the report, they should run to the spot. The pistols were fired; they found Sir Alexander wounded in the shoulder; they extracted two pieces of bone. Witness described the direction of the ball, and stated that he accompanied Sir Alexander to Balmuto-house, and attended him till 3 o'clock the next day, when he died. In the carriage, Sir Alexander expressed his decided opinion that Mr. Stuart could have done nothing else but call him out. And on getting out of the carrriage, he said, "Now, Gentlemen, observe, that it is my fixed resolution to fire in the air."

Mr. Boswell had seen a great deal of the deceased's handwriting, and said that the paper shown him without a signature was Sir Alexander's handwriting, but that to the best of his knowledge that entitled "Whig Song" was not in Sir Alexander's handwriting. The F, however, in the direction, was a little like Sir Alexander's handwriting.

Mr. Walker, tutor to Sir James Boswell, was well acquainted

with Sir Alexander's handwriting: shown the letter from him, declared it to be his handwriting; shown the Whig Song, said it was extremely unlike Sir Alexander's writing; shown the address of the above song, thought it was like Sir Alexander's writing.

W. H. Lizars, engraver, shown the letter signed Sir A. Boswell, and the Whig Song, said that when he first saw them he thought the writing was different in each; but when he saw them on Saturday, he felt inclined to alter his opinion. Being shown one of the papers which he had seen at the Justiciary-office, and comparing it with the Whig song, gave his opinion that the handwriting was the same in both.

Several other witnesses were examined, who proved the fairness of the manner in which the duel was conducted, and the way in which the papers were got from Borthwick. Finding that an action of damages was raised against Borthwick by Mr. Stuart, his agent applied to Mr. Stuart, and offered to produce the libels against him, if he would abandon the action, but he would make no promise to that effect. Mr. Stuart accompanied Borthwick's agent to Glasgow, and had the MSS. of the *Sentinel* put into his hands.

A number of exculpatory witnesses were then examined, among whom were Mr. Gibson, Mr. Allen, Mr. Clerk, who all deposed how deeply Mr. Stuart was affected after the duel, and particularly on receiving accounts of Sir Alexander's death. Many of Mr. Stuart's early friends and acquaintances gave him the highest character for goodness of temper, kindness of disposition, and the most honourable and upright conduct.

The Lord Advocate said, that the charge of murder, according to law, had been proved by the Noble Lord and the Hon. Mr. Douglas: and the next question was, what defence had been set up in behalf of the prisoner. The law knew of no other ground of exculpation, unless a justification founded on self-defence. But there are no such circumstances as to warrant this argument in the present case. Having thus stated the views which he entertained on the point of law, he would not enter into the detail of facts to show whether the individual was justified or not. All the defence and evidence had been fully laid before them; by it they were to judge, and be enabled to give such a verdict as would be alike satisfactory to their own consciences and to the country.

Mr. Jeffrey, in the course of a very excellent address, observed that it was not necessary for him to prove that the essence of all crime lay in the motive; and after all they had heard, it could not be disputed that Mr. Stuart went without one atom of malice. They had been told that a duel is an irrational, barbarous, and pernicious practice, and that he who takes it upon him to send or accept a challenge, is guilty of murder. He did not mean absolutely to offer any apology for the practice. The evils of duelling were ever uppermost in their view; but this prevents us from noticing, that it has proved the corrective of greater immoralities. It is known by those versed in history, that it has superseded the practice of private assassinations; and that we are not only indebted to it for the polish which it has given to the upper society, but also for that courage and handsomeness of demeanour, which distinguish civilized nations. That a man may not kill another unless in self-defence, without incurring the crime of murder, is contrary to the fact. It may be done in defence of personal property on a nocturnal assault; a soldier on sentry, or a constable to prevent a rescue, may justly kill. And if in such circumstances it is permissible, you place me in a painful dilemma, if, when a living outcast from society, exposed to daily insult, shrunk from by ancient friends, met by the blushing of relations and tears of children, you shackle me thus, you deprive me of the only means to wipe away those stains, and to vindicate my fair character to the world. The analogy of law, the reason of the thing, and the feelings of all mankind, are against you. In the short reign of Henry IV. of France, about 4000 are calculated to have fallen in single combat; and in our own country, during one of the longest reigns, that of George III., only about sixty or seventy are said to have fallen; facts which show that the practice does not prevail to any alarming extent. The Learned Counsel concluded a long argumentative speech, by dwelling emphatically on the favourable testimonials, both with respect to character and temper, which Mr. Stuart had received from so respectable a body of witnesses.

The Lord Justice Clerk proceeded to detail the evidence, and to illustrate the law as it bore on the case in question. He quoted the opinions of Baron Hume, Mr. Burnet, and Sir George M'Kenzie, against duelling, the latter of which writers considered duels "but as illustrious and honourable murders." He for one did not see any impropriety in the means which Mr. S. had employed to obtain the papers from Mr. Borthwick, and he pointedly represented them as injurious to Mr. S's character, and regretted the licentiousness in which the periodical press had frequently indulged. His Lordship concluded by dwelling on the ample and fair testimonials which had been tendered in favour of Mr. S. and the evidence which had been given of the distressing feelings of mind he had experienced since the fatal moment.

The Jury without leaving the box, after a few minutes' consultation, returned an unanimous verdict, finding Mr. Stuart—*Not Guilty*.

The Lord Justice Clerk, then turning to Mr. Stuart, congratulated him on the favourable verdict of the Jury; and was sure, in the present state of Mr. Stuart's feelings, that it would be quite improper for him to add a single word farther.

Mr. Stuart was then congratulated by his Counsel and a great number of his friends.

It was near five o'clock on Tuesday morning when the Court broke up. A considerable crowd occupied the Parliament-square all day, which greatly increased at night, when the populace became extremely noisy. When the verdict was announced much cheering followed, and the crowd rushed towards a chaise in the Lawn Market, with the avowed purpose of taking off the horses, when Mr. Stuart should make his appearance, who, however, disappointed them by withdrawing privately. He was afterwards discovered, and the people met him in Thistle-street, but at his earnest solicitation left him to pursue his way home, after shaking hands with one of their number.

When Mr. Cockburn alluded to the fatal end of the late Sir Alexander Boswell, Mr. Stuart burst into tears.—The trial lasted 18 hours.

FINE ARTS.

ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

There is a pleasing consistency of colour in Mr. Cooper's *Battle of Strigonium*, and *Rupert's Standard at Marston-moor*: but it would be more than pleasing, were there more richness of tint, in the flesh especially. We have less reason to complain of his penciling than formerly. He fulfils with energy the other high demands of his art in costume, in the shapes, and especially the action of his men and horses. He has a capital system of every-way directed lines, that with the activity and the caution, the intrepid, the angry, and anxious looks of the combatants, brings before us deliberate valour and the maddening rage of battle.

Mr. Leslie is the painter of sentiment, of the sedate, the lively, and humourous in private life. Nothing can be more facetious than the unwieldy gentleman in 141, *The Rivals*, who, conscious of the weighty objections against his heavy person, is endeavouring to secure a preference to a lighter-limbed and graceful rival, "a gallant, gay Lothario," by studied but awkward attention to a lady, who has dropped her fan, which agent of comfort and graceful airs he is essaying to pick up by a puffing and perspirable exertion.

There is too much of what is good, mixed with the reverse, for the spectator to pass unnoticed, in 58, *Lost Money*, R. Rippingille;—74, *Henry VIII. and Francis I. crowned Victors at a Tournament*, F. P. Stephanoff;—122, *The Veteran's Glory*, W. Kidd;—170, *A Pastoral*, H. P. Bone;—202, *Mazeppa*, T. Forster;—239, *View of the Market and Fountain of the Innocents, Paris*, J. J. Chalon;—and 101, *A Study of two old Men*, T. S. Good, which is very hard and untouchy, but gives with unusual similarity to Nature the character of old age.

We should think Mr. Wainwright's *Paris in the Chamber of Helen*, scarcely worthy of notice, were it not for the martial and indignant expression he has given to Hector, as he reaches the inglorious scene of his brother's voluptuousness.

With Mr. Pickersgill's *Cupid gliding down the Ganges on a Lotus*, our fancy floats deliciously. *Cupid's* confident aim from his bow, his beautiful shape and face, his meaning look, the burnished clouds that seem to catch a golden lustre from the presence of the God, and the sky to reflect a clearer blue from his soul-looking sapphire eye, place this picture among the most classical of its kind. We congratulate ourselves, as well as the Artist, that he has so much higher an aim than a successful practice of portrait-painting.

Sir W. Beechey has also a higher aim in 288, *Venus and Cupid*, but has sadly missed his mark.

All must admire Sir T. Lawrence's *Little Red Riding Hood*, for much of the graces of art and nature; but it would have shewn the pretty child of homely nature better without that look of polished, artificial life—that look of a court rather

than the country. Sir THOMAS has painted portraits that for size and composition are more valuable than any of his in the Exhibition, but never better half-lengths. His female attitudes are the very highest point of grace; and in the *Portraits of the Dukes of York, Bedford, and Wellington*, he even exceeds his former beauty of penciling and look of life. But he is still less happy in the carnation shadows than in the lights, from their chilling greyness. The bedizening and meretricious costume which Royalty cannot, or thinks it cannot, dispense with, is beautifully painted in his *Portrait of the King*. The proper effect of the head, which ought to be the principal in a portrait, is however lost in the picture, as it generally is in real life, and provokes comparisons with the unexpensive and unostentatious dignity of the head Personage in the Executive of the North American Republic.

Mr. JACKSON's capital half-length of the *Duke of York* has Nature's own hue. It comes out with the utmost force and richness.

For Professors of Art to obtain the praise inseparable from the memory of those glorious few who have secured the regard of successive generations, and not merely the countenance of some avowed patrons and critics, whose praise and censure are often suspicious in relation either to their sincerity or adequacy, their minds must be imbued with the properties of the subjects they represent, immersed in their very essence, feeling the passions and thinking the thoughts of mankind, their shapes and complexions, and the colour and forms of inanimate things. They must join the heart and hand of close fellowship with Nature, before they can properly and successfully introduce her offspring Art to the rightly judging, and must prove to them the relationship to Nature, by the resemblance to her in form and mind. All this has been felt and done by the Painter of 126, *Chelsea Pensioners receiving the London Gazette Extraordinary, announcing the Battle of Waterloo*,—a work, with all others by Mr. WILKIE, so congenial to the tastes of all spectators, so unhesitatingly and potently awakening to the mind, so expressive of curiosity, surprise, joy, in their overflowings of heart, that if ever it could be pronounced with certainty of a performance that it would go down to an admiring posterity, this is one of which such a prophecy may unerringly be made. "It represents an assemblage of pensioners, soldiers, and others, in front of a public-house." Every figure so aptly looks its own proper feeling and character, that we cannot select any one or more as the best. Each is the best of his or her kind, and our space alone prevents us dwelling upon every individual. "A Light-horseman just arrived with the Gazette, is relating further particulars to his comrades." The position of the Horseman is a beautiful specimen of tasteful selection from many attitudes, giving one that presents a tired courier leaning colloquially on his saddle. In his dress, as in all the rest, is observed its exact portraiture, its suitableness to the express character of the wearer. But the chief attraction to a delighted auditory is in the old Pensioner, who was at the taking of Quebec by Wolfe, for he is reading the account of the momentous battle in the hearing of all, and the satisfaction with which he does it is part of the effervescing joy that is the animating life of the picture. The Dog who followed the Oxford Blues all over the Peninsula, might have been made instrumental to a fine contrast to this spirit, by reposing with head between his paws, instead of standing with roused up look at the reader, for there are few objects that look more quiet than a dog so reposing. This contrast and an encreased variety of character might have been further given by a different kind of listener than the merely joyous; the solemn look, arising from a consideration of the sudden cutting off of valued associates, with whom friendly joys or military dangers had been shared, would have given a copiousness and completion to the picture, without which it is comparatively limited and barren. But the joyful view of the subject is communicated in all its bearings, is painted from and to the heart, and is all but reality. The sidelong ear, stretched-out body, and gladsome look of a Soldier at a distant window,—the aged Pensioner suspending his pipe and reposing his faculties in a blessed oblivion of all thought but that of the detailed Battle,—the Oyster-woman, while opening the oyster, opening also her eyes and mouth at the Reader of the marvellous news,—the Gazers over his shoulder at the Gazette,—the Mother staring at it with insatiate curiosity, while the infant at her breast is whimpering for its wonted nursing,—the full-feeding, fat Auditor, feasting away on oysters as well as news,—the Negro gazing with protruded head and teeth-staring extacy,—form a trophy of victory over the difficulties which Art encounters before it can arrive at almost consummate character. While the largest portion of the assembly are listening with undivided attention to the narrators of the glorious victory, a few are engaged in a mixed attention to them and other circumstances. The Painter thus preserves the unity and energy of his subject while he gives it diversity. The Irish Light-horseman who explains what he is hearing to a Pensioner, the Soldier who dandles his infant to keep it quiet during the reading, and his Wife who with a comb adjusts her hair, are instances. These assist to convey the subject in a way in which it would naturally happen; this naturalness, however, would not justify their introduction did they impair the main impression to be produced, but which evil would be impossible from the sufficiency of the other figures to the full developement of the main circumstance. When we intimate that the Painter has *almost* consummated character, we allude to some defect of colour. Taking his greater comprehensiveness of subject, and consequently of character, than is seen in any single Hollander, his nearer approximation to the beauties of proportion in form, his varieties of countenance, and his bland penciling, we are confident he is as efficient a Painter as the best of them, only, like them, he does not reach the perfection of his Art. His power of colour is still behind his other attainments. The flesh-tints are almost allied to the flimsy, and usually want mellowness. Thus character, of which colour is a part, is impaired. There is an agreeable yellow light cheering in partial glimpses, and in broad masses, the masses of shade; but the effect would have been more cheerful, were there less of a heavy blue nearly assimilating with black, that makes the scene look in a half-mourning. The naturalness of the scene is however so triumphant, that we doubt whether any subject of its class ever painted, (mortifying as the consequences of the Waterloo Battle are to every hater of the liberticidal system of Divine Right)—has ever given so pleasing, because so faithful a picture of Nature; for, judging from our own feelings, we think that no one has made so deep an impression. Were we to personify the genius of our Caledonian Artist, together with that of the Dutch, we would give the last a finer complexion and a more brilliant presence; the first should have a finer form and a more penetrating soul.

R. H.

NEWSPAPER CHAT.

FRENCH MARRIAGES.—All marriages are formed by the relations of the parties to be united, and conformity of age and fortune seems to be the object chiefly regarded: the parties seldom are allowed to meet till every arrangement has been made, and then are never suffered to be alone together, till the important day that removes the lady from the class of silent, grave, reserved, down-looking damsels, to the envied position of a married woman, who takes the lead in conversation, is the charm and ornament of society, goes about alone, receives visits at her toilette, and returns them escorted by a male friend. This I had often been told, and many memoirs or pathetic apologies for the lives of the fair writers, written expressly *for the benefit of their daughters*, make entire ignorance and subsequent disgust of the husbands they were consigned to by interested parents, the plea to excuse the fatal errors of their married lives: but I could not believe in the existence of so unnatural a system till I saw it myself in practice. How girls, who are neither handsome nor rich, contrive to get married, it puzzles me to find out, since none of their other qualities can possibly be discerned by their suitors; but I apprehend that a Parisian mother considers a very indifferent marriage as far better than none at all, for I certainly never have met in French society with any young lady continuing single after the age of one or two and twenty.—*The Museum.*

Some months ago we detailed a law case, in which Mr. Pearson, on the part of Anne Carey and Mary Anne Evans, moved the Court of King's Bench against two Staffordshire gentlemen, one of them a magistrate, for cruelty and oppression. The case involved an instance of seduction under very aggravated circumstances—such as the seducer following the young woman to America, bringing her back to London, establishing her in a handsome house, and

finally sending her a hundred pounds, and leaving her to beggary. On her way to Ireland, she fell ill in the neighbourhood of her seducer's seat, who, on her personally begging his assistance, procured her and her companion's commitment to Stafford gaol, as common *vagrants*. The case excited the attention of several persons in the county, and ultimately Mr. Pearson brought it before the Court of King's Bench. The Court granted a rule against the parties, and the result has been a reference to arbitration, which has assigned 1,350l. as damages and costs to the plaintiffs.—*Liverpool Advertiser.*

Country Justices.—"Call a man (says Bentham) a Justice of Peace, and he will serve you for nothing: for in England you have a set of people who are called Justices of the Peace, and they serve for nothing. Do they? No more than Job did. . . . The Country Justices are all Gentlemen; their mess, like the Member of Parliament's, is all sweet without bitter, all power without obligation. What they vouchsafe to do, the country is to think itself obliged to them for; they do just as much as they like, and as they like it, and when they like it. They serve in the country when the hounds are not out, as in Parliament when there is no Opera. They do a world of pleasant business too, besides the drudgery of justice; they tax the country, make the roads good to their houses, and build fine buildings."

Character of James I. by Sir W. Scott.—He was deeply learned, without possessing useful knowledge; sagacious in many individual cases, without having real wisdom; fond of his power, and desirous to maintain and augment it, yet willing to resign the direction of that, and of himself, to the most unworthy favourites; a big and bold asserter of his rights in words, yet one who tamely saw them trampled on in deeds; a lover of negociations, in which he was always outwitted; and a fearer of war, where conquest might have been easy. He was fond of his dignity, while he was perpetually degrading it by undue familiarity; capable of much public labour, yet often neglecting it for the meanest amusement; a wit, though a pedant; and a scholar, though fond of the conversation of the ignorant and uneducated. Even his timidity of temper was not uniform, and there were moments of his life, and those critical, in which he shewed the spirit of his ancestors. He was laborious in trifles, and a trifler where serious labour was required; devout in his sentiments, and yet too often profane in his language; just and beneficent by nature, he yet gave way to the iniquities and oppression of others. He was penurious respecting money which he had to give from his own hand, yet inconsiderately and unboundedly profuse of that which he did not see. In a word, those good qualities which displayed themselves in particular cases and occasions, were not of a nature sufficiently firm and comprehensive to regulate his general conduct; and shewing themselves as they occasionally did, only entitled James to the character bestowed on him by Sully,—that he was the wisest fool in Christendom.—*Fortunes of Nigel.*

The Police Commissioners of Sheffield, in Yorkshire, have issued a public notice, that in future the inhabitants of that town are to adopt the regulation of the capital in walking on causeways, of "Keeping their right hands to the wall, to prevent their bobbing their noses in each others face."

The Concert at the Mansion-house on Wednesday night, intended to aid the Fund for the Irish Sufferers, failed altogether, we are sorry to learn—not more than 150 persons attended, and the expenses, we fear, must have exceeded the receipts.

Vossius.—The learned Isaac Vossius, whom Charles II. made a Canon of Windsor, though he wrote a book to prove that the Septuagint Version was divinely inspired, discovered in private conversation that he believed in nothing of the sort. A minister, when his relation was sick, would have given him the communion; but Vossius opposed it, saying, "This is a pretty custom enough for sinners, but my uncle is a man without vices."

A Dreadful Encounter.—In crossing the Ba-Woolima, Isaaco met with a strange and nearly fatal adventure. In attempting to drive six asses across the river, just as he had reached the middle, a crocodile rose close to him, and instantly seizing him by the left thigh, pulled him under water. With wonderful presence of mind, he felt the head of the animal, and thrust his finger into its eye. This forced it to quit its hold; but it soon however returned to the charge, and seizing him by the other thigh, again pulled him under water. Isaaco had recourse to the same expedient, and thrust his fingers a second time into its eyes with such force, that it again quitted him, rose to the surface, floundered about as if stupid, and then swam down the stream. Isaaco in the mean time reached the shore bleeding very much; the wound in his left thigh being four inches long, that on the right somewhat less, but very deep, besides several single teeth marks on his back. In six days he recovered, so as to be able to travel.—

Horticulture.—The Horticultural Society held its Anniversary dinner on Tuesday week, at the Freemasons' tavern, before which nearly 1000 persons were admitted to view the Dessert, which was arranged in a separate room, and was of the most splendid description.—Among the "delicacies of the season," the strawberries raised by Mr. Keens, gardener, of Isleworth, called the Charlotte, and the New Seedling, were greatly noticed, the latter in particular, for their remarkable size and beauty. Thus far we gather from the newspapers; and we can add from ourselves, who have tasted Mr. Keen's strawberries, that not only their size and beauty are remarkable, but their flavour also, which is truly delicious.

Ingenious Advertisement.—Of all dependants upon their wits that I have ever seen or heard of, a Dutch traveller, mentioned to me by one of my friends, merits the palm. Mr. Bowlby told me, that when he was travelling in France, he met at Lyons a Dutch gentleman of some rank, but who was not rich. He generally dined with other foreigners at an ordinary, and spoke with earnestness of a wonderful animal, a Rhinoceros, which was in that city; always pressing the new comers to go and see this strange creature, whose singular qualities he extolled in such a manner, that he made some visit it more than once. Mr. Bowlby having met him in several cities, and seeing him always equally zealous on this subject, was desirous to find out his motive. He discovered at last that the Dutch gentleman had found the means of obtaining a living by buying a Rhinoceros, which he sent on before him, with a man whom he could trust, to all the great towns where he wished to stop; and introducing himself into genteel company, he soon gave the Rhinoceros a celebrity, which defrayed the expenses of his own travels.—*Memoirs of a Traveller now in Retirement.*

Wanstead House.—On Monday began the sale of furniture at this princely mansion, a sale which for the length of its continuance, and the splendid magnificence of the articles to be sold, is altogether unrivalled. To give the slightest possible detail of the articles would very far exceed our limits. Suffice it to say, that the hangings of Genoa velvet, trimmed with solid gold lace, the silk embroidered carpets, with couches, sofas, and chairs, to correspond, the extraordinary profusion of curious old china, rich cut glass, and massive plate, the oriental ebony chairs, the exquisite carvings in ivory, the fine paintings, sculptures, bronzes, and casts from the antique, the fresh and glowing Gobelin tapestry, the beautiful French clocks, elegant chandeliers, superb pier glasses, magnificent state beds, and splendid furniture of every description, form a *tout-ensemble*, such as perhaps was never before collected in the mansion of any subject, and has not frequently been equalled in the Palaces of Crowned Heads. The catalogue is in three 4to. parts of 130 pages each, and the sale, which includes not only the furniture but the books and wines, will reach to the unprecedented length of two and thirty days!—*Courier.*—Another account says, "The furniture is of surprising magnificence. When we state that the carpets and hangings alone, have cost sixty thousand pounds, within the last ten years, we do not exaggerate. The family arms of Tylney and Wellesley are embroidered on all the carpets, the material of which is silk. The walls as well as the windows are hung with the richest Genoa velvet, with three borders of real gold lace, at three guineas and a half a yard. These specimens alone may give an idea of the luxury (more than oriental) which pervades the whole."

A wager took place on Monday the 27th ult. by J. Gorsall, hair-dresser, of Scotland road, who undertook to shave 60 men in an hour, which he completed in three-fourths of the time. He proceeded however, till the expiration of the hour, when he had shaved eighty-two in a masterly stile.—*Liverpool Paper.*

Question! Question!—These exclamations, as our readers must have seen, are not seldom heard in the Commons House, when the well-trained ministerial bands are impatient to show off their *voting* powers.—The celebrated Earl of Chatham on one occasion put down one of these "Question" vociferators in good style. While he was speaking, Sir Wm. Young called out "Question, question!" Lord Chatham paused; then, fixing on Sir Wm. a look of inexpressible disgust, he exclaimed, "Pardon me, Mr. Speaker, my agitation. When *that* Member calls for the question, I fear I hear the knell of my country's ruin!"

England.—Mr. Butler, in his *Reminiscences*, relates a conversation a friend of his had with the Emperor Napoleon at Elba, in which the deposed Sovereign spoke of the condition of this Empire:—He said, that for several years England had been at the zenith of her glory; that she might for some time remain there; but that such must be the pressure on her, from her immense national debt, and such the necessary decrease of her trade, from the great stimulus he had given to the commerce of continental nations, that her descent into the rank of secondary nations

LAW.

PREROGATIVE COURT.

Wednesday, June 12.

WILL OF HIS LATE MAJESTY—THE SOI-DISANT PRINCESS OLIVE.

Dr. LUSHINGTON stated, that having communicated with the King's Advocate, who had still no instructions in this case, he was under the necessity of renewing his application. This Court was called upon to try the validity of the instrument purporting to be a testamentary paper, executed under the late Royal sign manual, in favour of Lady Olive, otherwise Princess of Cumberland. It appeared by affidavit, that the instrument was put into her hands by the late Earl of Warwick, in presence of the late Duke of Kent, who acknowledged the claim to be legitimate, the Earl stating that he was commanded by his late Majesty so to deliver it. Mr. Dickenson, steward to the Earl of Warwick, would prove not only that this was the genuine signature of the Earl, but that it was to his belief the actual sign-manual of his late Majesty. Mr. Lloyd, an attorney, who was in the habit of being professionally employed for his late Majesty, would likewise prove that it was the genuine sign-manual; and a Mr. Vancouver, said that he was so thoroughly convinced of its genuineness, that he would have acted upon it. The other attesting witnesses were the Earl of Chatham, and Mr. Dunning (afterwards Lord Ashburton). Mr. Griffin, many years clerk to Mr. Dunning, proved his signature to be genuine, as did another gentleman that of the Earl of Chatham.—The instrument was executed forty-eight years ago, and, consequently, when his Majesty was competent to have executed any testamentary instrument. The paper, was in substance this:—

"GEORGE R. "*St. James's.*

"In case of our Royal demise, we give and bequeath to Olive, our brother of Cumberland's daughter, the sum of 15,000*l.* commanding our heir and successor to pay the same *privately* to our said neice, for her use, as a recompense for the misfortunes she may have known through her father.

"Witness, "*June 2d*, 1774.

"J. DUNNING. CHATHAM. WARWICK."

Here was every requisite form; for first the payment was directed to take place after the death of the King himself; and 2dly, the word "bequeath" was employed. Now "bequeath" was a term peculiarly appropriated to testaments. The direction "to pay it privately" related merely to the mode of payment. But here was a command which he (Dr. Lushington) must consider to be a valid one; and if the paper was genuine, it must be the inclination, he was sure, of that Court, as it was its duty, to give to that command every effect.

His Majesty's Advocate held a short conference with Dr. Lushington, after which

Dr. LUSHINGTON said, understanding that a very important communication had just been made to his Majesty's Counsel, and which regarded the interests of his client, he would beg the Court to permit the case to stand over till next Court-day.—Ordered.

[OLIVE, PRINCESS OF CUMBERLAND.—The singular document which has been produced on behalf of this not less singular individual, is on a small piece of paper, the condition of which is truly set forth in the affidavit of the lady herself, who swears that it is in precisely the same condition as when it first came into her hands, save that its edges have been worn away, and that it has been found necessary to paste it on another paper, in consequence of the deponent's having carried it constantly about her since she was first intrusted with it. The paper commences with the sign manual of George III. The body and contents of the bequest are in the hand-writing of the late Lord Warwick. The evidence set up on behalf of this paper is extremely curious and stringent. Olive swears, that some time in the month of May, 1815, the late Duke of Kent and the Earl of Warwick were at her house; that the Earl, in the presence of his Royal Highness, communicated to her the "secret of her illustrious birth;" that the Earl said, he possessed this document among others, which would confirm the fact; and that he had solemnly pledged himself to keep them carefully until a fitting opportunity; that some time afterwards, accordingly, the Earl, on his return from Warwick-castle, where these papers were deposited, delivered to the deponent a portion of them, the Duke of Kent being again present; and the deponent taking an oath not to make this testament public till after the death of his late Majesty. The affidavits which have been given in, in support partly of the premises, but chiefly in proof of hand-writing, are positive and peculiar. The signature "J. Dunning," is spoken to by a Mr. Griffin, who was long the confidential clerk of that eminent lawyer; the other signatures and the sign manual, are supported by the affidavits of two or three gentlemen; and among others by Mr. Vancouver, the brother of the celebrated navigator; and Mr. Dickinson, of Devonshire-place.—The communication which Dr. Lushington announced, was understood to have been an intimation from the Treasury, that some steps would be taken by Government towards the settlement of this Lady's affairs.—The hand-writing of his Majesty is verified by Sir Watkin Lewes, since deceased, by affidavit, dated June, last year.—The Earl of Chatham having been so long since dead, some difficulty arises in proving his handwriting by any witnesses now living, who had actually seen him write so frequently as to enable them to testify it.—*Times.*]

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

SHIPWRECK.—A few days ago we gave an extract from Lloyd's List, announcing the loss of the *Lark*, Inglis, bound from Jamaica to Belfast, when all on board perished, except one passenger. Mr. Hugh Fulton, the passenger alluded to, has arrived at Belfast. It appears that this small schooner upset on the 11th of April, in a severe gale, when scudding under bare poles. There were on board, Wm. Inglis, master; James Moore, Alexander Hill, Jans Peterson, and a man of colour; Mr. Malcolm M'Gregor, and Mr. Fulton. When the vessel upset, the foremast going overboard, she righted, but full of water, the sea making a clear passage over her; her cargo being cotton-wool, kept her afloat. In this emergency, the people clung to the rigging, but had not the means of getting either food or water. In the middle of the night the black man died in Mr. Fulton's arms. Some time afterwards, James Moore and another seaman died in a state of delirium, and were swept over board. Next day, Mr. M'Gregor, the passenger, also died delirious. At this time, when there were three human beings alive on the wreck, a vessel came in sight, but she inhumanly proceeded on her course without giving any assistance. [This vessel proved to be the *Camillo*, of Gibraltar, bound to Cadiz from the Havannah; her master's name is Traverso, a native of Italy.] In some hours after the other seaman died delirious. The Captain lived for about thirty-six hours when, finding his end approaching, he shook hands with Mr. Fulton, desired that he would acquaint his wife with his fate, and of his affection for her in that awful moment: he soon after sunk down, and was also washed overboard. Fulton, who is young and very stout made, was now left alone in this dreadful situation, up to his middle in water, without any sustenance or prospect of relief. He fortunately retained his self-possession, though frequently tempted to abandon all hopes of life. He was dying of hunger and thirst; the only food he got was a dead rat, which he devoured voraciously. After having been on the wreck three days and nights, the American brig *Susan Jane* came in sight, and her humane master, Samuel Freeman, lost not a moment in sending to the wreck, and took Fulton on board his vessel, where, by judicious treatment, he was gradually restored.—The *Susan Jane* was bound to Cadiz, where they arrived in safety. The British Consul at Cadiz, Joseph Egan, Esq. generously did every thing in his power for Mr. Fulton, providing him with necessaries, and procuring him a passage home.—*Belfast News Letter.*

Friday week, an inquisition was held on the body of *Mr. James Wiggens*, a gentleman residing in James-street, Kent-road, who put a period to his existence by hanging himself on Wednesday week. It appeared that the deceased had been for some time past in a desponding state of mind. Verdict,—*Insanity.*

On Tuesday morning, about a quarter past three o'clock, a thief entered the house of Mrs. Osborne, of Green-street, Grosvenor-square, by cutting a hole through the kitchen door in the front area; he proceeded to Mrs. Osborne's chamber, and, placing a pistol to her head, swore he would instantly blow out her brains if she caused the least alarm. He immediately seized her pockets, out of which he stole a 10*l.* note, and a purse containing two sovereigns, and also took a valuable watch. The threats of the thief awoke the female servant who slept in the adjoining apartment, and finding there was some one near at hand, he hastened down down stairs, and escaped.

The inspection of the two men confined in Barking jail, suspected of being the murderers of Mrs. Donatty, took place on Saturday week. Mrs. French and Mrs. Jeffs thought there was some resemblance between *Falkner*, one of the prisoners, but neither of them could swear to his person; and the other witnesses did not think there was any resemblance between the prisoners and the persons they had seen; and thus the matter rests.

The youth who attempted to cut off the head of Mrs. Martin, turns out to be an unfortunate idiot. The sufferer is now expected to recover.

POSITIVELY THE LAST NIGHT BUT TWO OF MR. MATHEWS'S ENTERTAINMENTS.

MR. MATTHEWS AT HOME, at the Theatre Royal, English Opera-House, Strand, TO-MORROW EVENING, June 10, (and on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, until the 22d inst.) with his annual Lecture on Character, Manners, and Peculiarities, under the title of the YOUTHFUL DAYS of Mr. MATHEWS.

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*** In order to meet the encreasing demand for places, and accommodate those numerous Families who have been unable to witness M. Alexandre's admired Performances, they will be repeated a few Evenings longer.—Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

MONSIEUR ALEXANDRE, the celebrated Dramatic Ventriloquist, will deliver an entirely new Comic, Characteristic, Vocalic, Mimetic, Multiformical, Manilocuous, Ubiquitarical Entertainment, in Three Parts, in English, and entitled the ADVENTURES of a VENTRILOQUIST, or the ROGUERIES of NICHOLAS.—Part I. Food and Physic—Cupid turned Chimney-sweep.—Part II. Wine and the Tooth-ache, or the Biter Bit.—Part III. Jack in the Box. The whole embodied, illustrated, and delivered by M. Alexandre.

In consequence of the numerous enquiries continually making for the next representation of the original piece of TOM and JERRY, produced at this Theatre, the Public are respectfully informed, that it cannot be played again till October next.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, PALL-MALL.

THE GALLERY, with a Selection of Pictures of the Italian, Spanish, Flemish, and Dutch Schools, is open daily from Ten in the morning until Six in the evening.—Admittance 1s.—Catalogues 1s.

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THE Public are respectfully acquainted, that the EGYPTIAN TOMB will CLOSE on SATURDAY the 22nd Instant. The whole of that Collection is to be delivered to the various purchasers immediately after.

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COSMORAMA.—A CHANGE will take place on the 1st July: the Views of Jerusalem, Cintra, the Lake of Geneva, and Le Hameau in the Petit Trianon, will be removed.—Those of Mount Vesuvius, the Tuileries, Cape St. Vincent, and the Interior of St. Peter's, will remain, though this last view has been seen by upwards of Sixty Thousand persons (one-third of whom have seen it many times over) it still continues the great favourite to be removed.—Open from 11 o'clock in the morning till 9 at night. Admittance One Shilling.

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Le 25 Juillet, 1818.

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DODSLEY'S ANNUAL REGISTER.

THE ANNUAL REGISTER, or a View of the History, Politics, and Literature, of the year 1820.

London: printed for Baldwin, Cradock, and Joy; Otridge and Rackham; J. Cuthell; Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, and Brown; E. Jeffery and Son; Lackington and Co. J. Bell; Sherwood, Neely, and Jones; R. Saunders; W. Reynolds; and Simpkin and Marshall.

*** The unparalleled quantity of events, foreign and domestic, which occurred in the year 1820, have necessarily increased the size of the present volume; and notwithstanding the adoption of a smaller type for many documents, it has been found impossible to comprise the whole in less than two parts. This however need not occur again; and the publishers are persuaded that, when the Contents are examined, they will be found to require no apology for the space which they occupy, and that it was impossible to do justice to the History of 1820,—the commencement of a new reign, the epoch of three foreign revolutions, and much domestic agitation—within the compass of an ordinary volume.

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MARRIAGES.

At North Collingham, near Newark, on the 29th ult. William Johnston, aged 84 years, to Hannah Ridall, aged 16.

On the 25th ult. Lieutenant Henry Jellicoe, R. N. of Wandsworth, to Jane, daughter of Sir A. B. King, Bart. of Dublin.

On the 6th inst. at Camberwell, Henry H. Goodhall, Esq. of the East India-house, to Mary, eldest daughter of Henry Smith, Esq. of Peckham-house.

DEATHS.

On the 10th inst. Jane, wife of J. J. Gurney, of Earlham-hall, Norfolk.

On the 8th inst. at Pinner-green Lodge, Daniel Willshen, Esq. in the 79th year of his age.

On Sunday morning, in the Wandsworth-road, Edward, the eldest son of Mr. Bessy, of his Majesty's Exchequer.

Lately, Jenny Hickling, of Winterswould, near Loughborough, aged 74, after having been confined to her bed 61 years. Jenny was strong, healthful, and lively, till the age of 13, when the palsy deprived her of the use of her limbs, and subjected her to excruciating pains. When her disorder abated, though she could not leave her bed, she formed the design of opening a school. Her sufferings, patience, and piety, excited the sympathy of her neighbours; and her bed was soon surrounded by scholars, whom she taught to read, sew, knit, and stock; and for many years she continued this useful employment. At length her eye-sight failed; but she continued to knit almost as ever, and did so until her infirmities rendered it impossible.

On Wednesday last, at the Grove, near this city, Stephen George Kemble, Esq. aged 65. The name which he bore was no ordinary one, and it buoyed him up, when his merit as an actor would have availed him but little. The last time he appeared on the stage was for the benefit of a part of his family, on the 30th of last month, when he performed Sir Christopher Curry, in "Inkle and Yarico." He was then apparently in his usual state of health; but in a few days afterwards he was attacked by inflammation in the bowels, which disorder terminated his mortal existence. In private life he was a social, lively companion; on the stage he was chiefly remarkable for playing Sir John Falstaff, as it is said, without stuffing.—*Durham Chronicle.*

Printed and published by JOHN HUNT, at the Examiner Office, No. 19, Catharine-street, Strand, London.—Price 7d.